AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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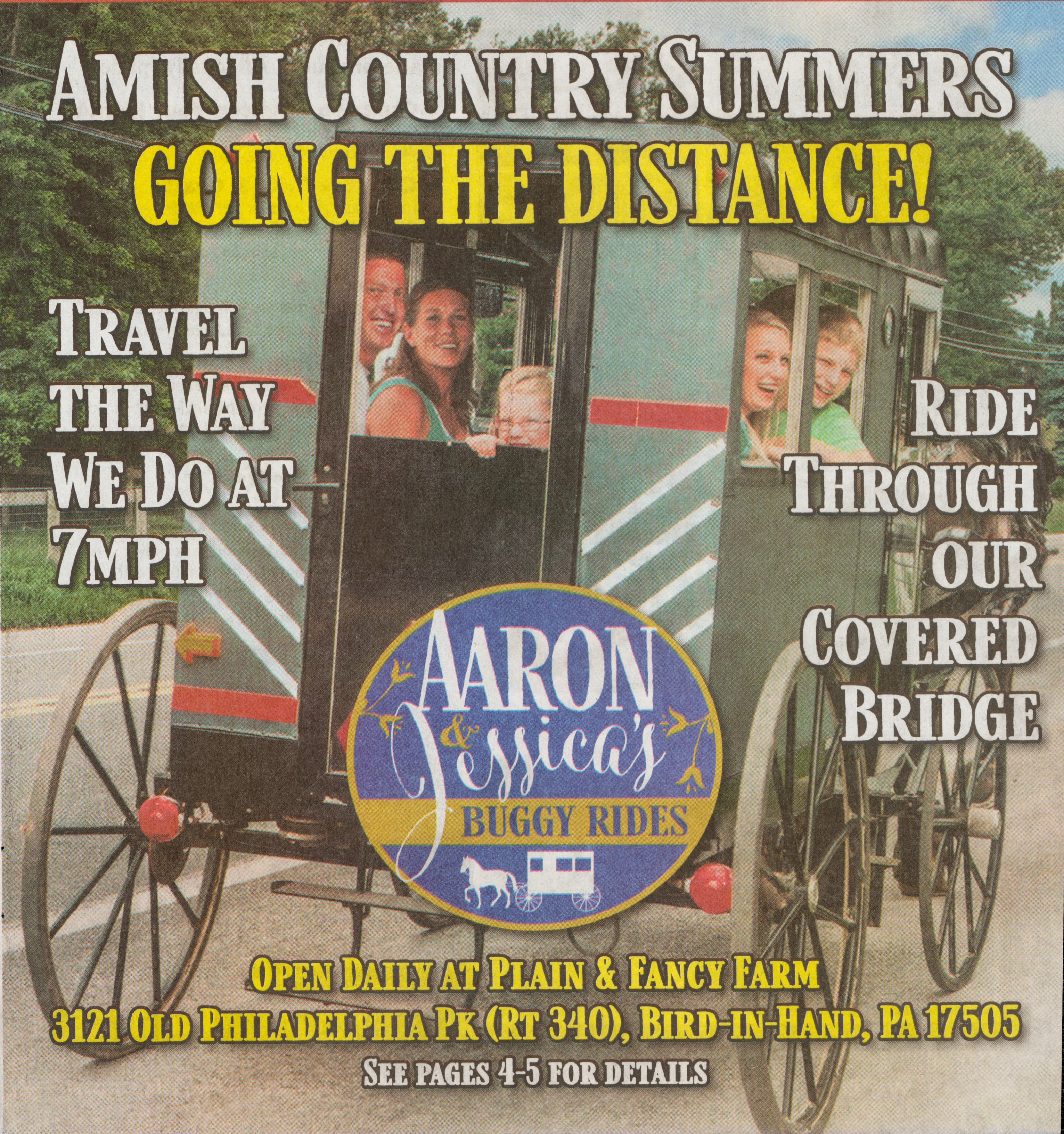

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DUTCH HAVEN AN AMISH COUNTRY LANDMARK

Travelers have been traversing Lancaster County along Route 30 for well over two centuries. And for over 70 years, a very special building has signaled their arrival in Amish Country. It has a legitimate claim on being the area's oldest visitor landmark. Most importantly, it's the "place that made shoo–fly pie famous." That iconic structure is the Dutch Haven windmill.

With a history dating back to the beginnings of tourism here, the building is rich in memories. From the time it started as a luncheonette in 1920 right up to the present, it has remained most famous for shoo–fly pie, served warm with whipped cream. The Dutch Haven shoo–fly pie has even been mentioned in a *TIME* magazine article.

Today, as soon as you walk in, you'll be offered a free sample of that same delicious, gooey pie. Some 40,000 pies are baked annually, using the original (secret) recipe. Visitors are still encouraged to "Take one for yourself or send one to someone nice." You can buy and ship pies home at the store or at their "online shop," where you'll find other local crafts as well.

Yes, Dutch Haven is much more than pies, with over 10,000 unique gift items, foods, and collectibles. Some of the most popular are jams, jellies, and canned goods, noodles, hex signs, quilted spice mats, Amish straw hats, jewelry and gemstones, Amish dolls, onyx and soapstone animals, trivets, Tiffany lamps, framed prints, plenty of T–shirts and postcards, and a tremendous selection of Amish–made outdoor furniture. It's an eclectic mix, to say the least.

As you explore, you'll discover lots of other "surprises" around every corner. Expect the unexpected! And don't forget the Amish–style root beer in the barrel.

Dutch Haven is now open Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., and closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Hours are subject to change. Visit our website for information. For more info about this Lancaster County landmark, call 717.687.0111. Look forward to your free sample when you walk in under the welcoming arms of the windmill for this truly is the place that made shoo–fly pie famous.

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ALL ABOUT AARON

Did you know?

AARON WAS JESSICA'S FIRST HORSE!?

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ALL ABOUT JESSICA

Born a small town girl, it was Jessica's dream to own a horse and carriage where she could share our lifestyle with others. She and her siblings attended a one-room schoolhouse and experienced the rigors of winter and hot summers. At the young age of 14 when her eighth grade education ended, Jessica had the opportunity to select the interior color of her buggy, choosing which style wood dashboard she wanted, and items such as a speedometer versus hand-powered windshield wiper! YES, even 30 years ago every family custom ordered the interior design of their Amish carriage. An opportunity presented at Plain & Fancy Farm to open a carriage business for visitors. In the next moment, Jessica found her favorite horse and named him Aaron, and soon began offering a carriage ride experience to travelers who were seeking to learn more about the Amish, Mennonites, and Old Order Brethren of Pennsylvania. **Tracing our heritage back through Pennsylvania Dutch trails,** to the Dutch Brethren of the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland, Jessica and her dad had a new found joy of telling others about our way of life.

Today, Jessica's family lives in one of the oldest known standing homes in Lancaster County. It's now been over 31 years that the family has maintained the passion to share the Christian faith and "reasons" for living a Plain lifestyle. Within those years, Jessica and her five siblings are now parents to a combined 15+ children! Every few years another one of the children got to start learning how to drive a horse. In Lancaster County, you will see children as young as 6 or 7 years old driving their miniature pony to town!

Just as we continue to grow and develop, our communities continue to adapt to newer technology that may be permissible to utilize within the home or at work. It is important to understand that Amish and other Plain community members do not have a specific religious belief against technology. Their faith in the New Testament teaches them to follow verses such as John 15:19, to be in the world, but not of the world. No matter the progression, the simplistic lifestyle still holds strong! On our ride you'll have the opportunity to ask questions about day to day life, Don't forget to ask about the electrical sources in our homes (electrical wires are still non-existent).

In Jessica's home, and in a select few of the Plain churches, children are permitted to go to school beyond eighth grade. When Jessica had the opportunity to do local farm calls with a veterinarian, she found a love of medicine and caring for our horses.

Once she obtained her vet technician degrees, she worked five years in a horse operating room. She quickly discovered her true passion was caring for not just animals but humans also. Being the eldest sibling, she led by example and soon her next four siblings followed suit in pursuing healthcare degrees. Jessica's sisters remain in Lancaster County practicing nursing within the local communities.

Today, you may see Jessica or her youngest sister Miriam offering buggy rides. This is your full opportunity to learn first hand about our childhood and the Christian beliefs that still hold true to us.

A FAMILY TRADITION THAT NEVER DISAPPOINTS

No matter the stage in life or agenda of the day, guests, locals (and even our drivers) find riding in a horse drawn carriage to be very relaxing! Even after thousands of carriage rides, Jessica, Sarah, Rachel, Miriam and their two brothers still love taking an evening joy ride in the carriage.

When you come to our buggy ride, every ride begins with a **ride through our covered bridge!**

As Jessica and Miriam continue to expand our rides, we now offer many public, private and "themed" buggy rides. Inquire about scheduling your next special moment and create memories to last a lifetime!

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We have team carriages so your group can ride together! Group rates available for 20+ riders.

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Monday–Saturday 9am–5pm
Sunday 10am–4pm

STANDARD RIDES

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Adults: $18.00 Child: $12.00 (age 3-12) 2 & under: Free

A 30-35 minute tour passing a cluster of Amish homes and businesses in an all Amish area. Travel our country roads, the way we travel! Cookies, snacks and drinks are USUALLY available for purchase, depending on our Amish neighbors availability.

AMISH FARM TOUR

Adults: $35.00 Child: $16.00 (age 3-12) 2 & under: Free

A 50-60 minute tour that stops at a local farm! Experience our way of life on a real working Amish farm. Tour the barn, and see the cows, chickens, goats, and horses. Discover life without electricity and how the Amish remain separate from traditional American society!

THE SUNDAY RIDE

Adults: $20.00 Child: $12.00 (age 3-12) 2 & under: Free

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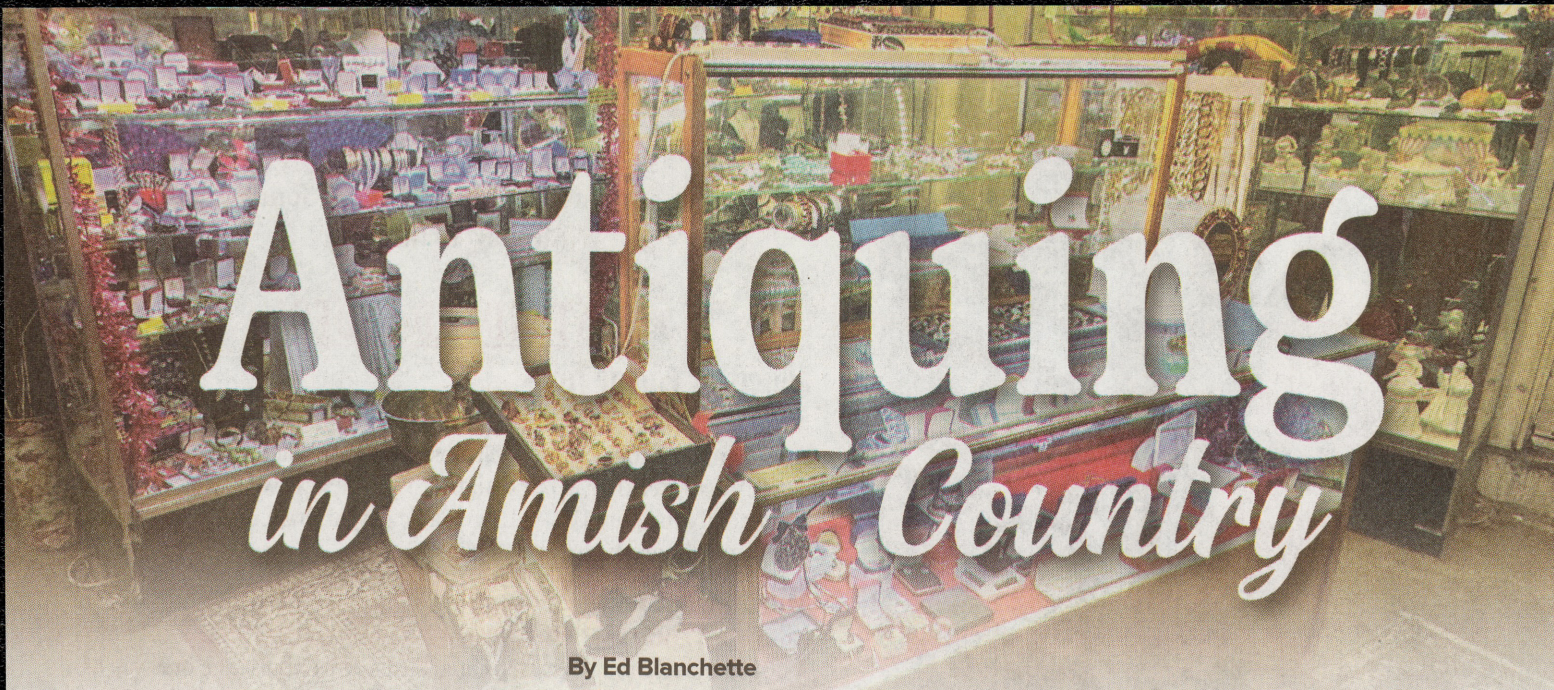

Antiquing in Amish Country

By Ed Blanchette

Do you enjoy searching for antiques? Perhaps you are looking for that special something, or you just enjoy searching for a surprise to add to your home decor. Maybe you hope to find an item worthy of an "Antique Roadshow." Whatever you discover, once you find it, it becomes your personal treasure.

What makes Lancaster County such a great place to go antiquing? One obvious answer would be that this area has a rich history going back hundreds of years to the first settlers in the early 1700s. Many of us have stuff in our attics that we have forgotten about, or inherited. Who knows what may be out there either at a yard sale or an antique shop? Here in Lancaster County we boast thousands of antique shops and dealers. The Adamstown area alone has over 3,000 antiques dealers, and is known as Antiques Capital, U.S.A. The many locations stretch out along Route 272, just off Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 286.

Whether you are after a rarity, or just something old that intrigues you, you'll find everything from sheet music to music boxes, pocket watches to kitchen sinks, nostalgic clothes to beautiful wardrobes to hang them in. Glassware, crafts, toys, clothes, artwork, china, quilts and fabrics, memorabilia...the list is endless!

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AMISH HACKERS

By Clinton Martin

The Amish are some of the best hackers in Lancaster County. No, this doesn't have anything to do with scammy emails and extortion through the use of ransomware. Rather, this is hacking of a technological sense to create "go-arounds" to harness the usefulness of modern tech while still fitting into the moral and cultural norms of the Amish community.

Many visitors to Lancaster County think the Amish must be very ignorant of technology, but I find the Amish are actually quite tech-savvy. They know exactly what they want to use, and exactly what they want to exclude from their way of life.

I can't claim the fame for coining the term "Amish hackers." That rightfully goes to foremost academic on all things Amish, prolific author Donald Kraybill. In his excellent 2021 book, What the Amish Teach Us (Johns Hopkins University Press) he sets aside a chapter to these ingenious inventors, adapters, and "hackers" within the Amish population.

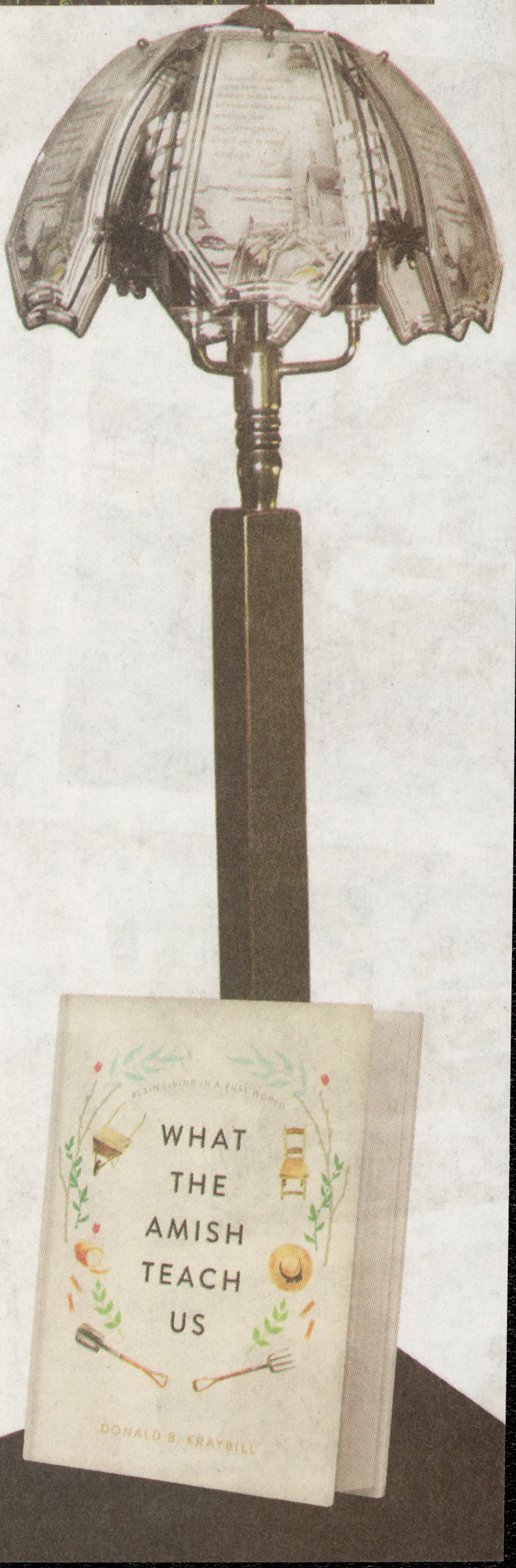
As an example, he toured an Amish lantern shop, observing how lighting fixtures had changed in the Amish community over the last 50 years. The lantern shop's shelves were a veritable chronological museum showing how kerosene lamps had given way to propane models, to today's LED light bulb creations running off batteries.

The Amish are known for not using electricity, but in fact they use electricity in a variety of ways – just a variety of off-grid ways. As the lantern shop owner put it, "It's not so much the electric that we're against. It's all the things that would come in with it – all the modern conveniences, television, computers. If we get electric lights, then where will we stop?"

Thus, the lantern shop stocks lighting fixtures such as table lamps, floor lamps, desk lamps, flashlights, etc. that run off batteries, which can be recharged using solar panels. These are the same lamps any "English" (non-Amish) person can buy, but rather than plugging them into the wall and flipping the switch, the Amish plug them into adapters, harnessing battery technology, and ultimately solar when the battery needs charged. This adaptation maintains a separateness from the world, in a way, that makes it more difficult to bring in the tech they view as a threat to their way of life.

The Amish lantern shop uses ten 3D printers (yes you read that right) to create a line of plastic adapters, connecting existing DeWalt, Makita, (and other brands') interchangeable battery technology with mass-produced lamps of the English world. The printers run off 48-volt electric batteries, which are recharged by, what else, solar panels.

Unlike most instances of hacking, this is one case where I wholeheartedly appreciate the creativity, mastery, and flexibility of the actor!



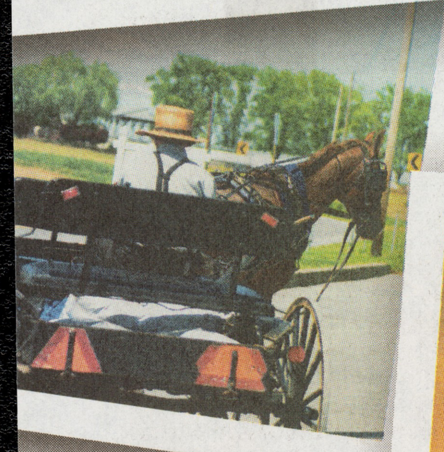
The Amish & Photographs

REVISITED

Salutations... In the last most recent issues, we revisited the questions given during my travels in and around "Amish Country" from visitors and even some locals of what is proper or allowable for photographing the Amish people within their communities. As you know, we always attempt in making it our utmost goal, here at "Amish Country News", to be thoughtful and respectful regarding our articles, historical references, artwork, and all the photographs that are submitted, taken, and used in and throughout our publication.

We even have a special continuing section in each issue categorized as, "Reminders to Visitors" that assists in making our readers and visitors to the Amish communities, aware of some of the simple etiquettes to bring to mind. This way we all have a respected and civil guide for interaction between peoples, be it Amish, Mennonite, or English, and the continuing goal of respecting each other's privacy, space, and dignity.

As promised, please enjoy the final part, part four, of this revisited previous article contribution from our friend Brad Igou, regarding the on-going questions of photographing our friends in the Amish communities. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did. Thank you and happy reading!



PART FOUR:

Last of Four Parts — By Brad Igou

In the preceding three articles on the Amish and photographs, we have looked at the Second Commandment concerning graven images as the prime explanation for the dislike of photos. But it has become clear that this may really be an attempt to provide Scriptural explanation for an idea that is central to Amish culture...humility.

Amish writer Elmo Stoll notes that there is already much concern over dress and finery at Amish weddings, and that photographic records would only compound the problem, not to

mention the large sums of money spent on cameras, film and equipment. The danger here is the exaltation of the person, and Stoll feels the photograph is an attempt to "preserve and make permanent that which God has decreed shall pass away."

Stoll admits that some Amish may long for and have pictures of their children or parents. Indeed, some local photographers tell stories of Amish parents who request copies of photos of their children. Elmer Smith, in ***The Amish Today***, tells of an Amish couple that cherished a photo of their family, hiding it under a paper lining in a drawer. When it was found by a visiting sister, it was seen as "a self-image that shows pride in oneself." According to the story, the wife hid the photo "under the insulation of the roof outside the second-floor window. She hid it so well she couldn't find it and asked the non-Amish friends who gave it to her if another copy could be obtained."

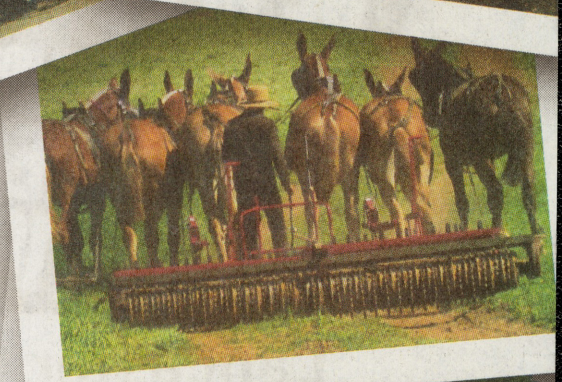
Today, many pictures are taken with a telephoto lens, as the many postcards and photo books sold locally make clear. If pictures must be taken, they should be done at a distance. And although some Amish children might allow their pictures to be taken, the thoughtful visitor might consider whether respect for this culture's values may be more important than a cute photo to take home. While local Amish may understand the visitor's natural curiosity, they don't want to feel like animals in an African photo safari.

Recently, I picked up a young Amishman hitch-hiking to visit a friend in the hospital. I asked him what he says when tourists ask, "Why can't I take your picture?" His reply is usually, "Because somebody already did!" He added that since local guides on tour buses usually explain the dislike of photographs, he feels more comfortable in waving at them than he might otherwise.

All of this may have something to do with how friendly the Amish appear to visitors. Recently, a tourist drove to the State Police building in Lancaster to report an Amishman to his "employer" because he refused to pose with her husband for a photograph! Obviously, the best way to make contact with one of our Amish neighbors is not with a camera in your hand.

The next time you are out in your yard, imagine how you would feel if a carload of people drove up, stopped, and started snapping pictures of you, and video-taping your activities. Refraining from taking photos is more than just a courtesy. As the local Visitors Bureau notes, "While you talk and mingle with the Amish, please remember that they are not actors or spectacles, but ordinary people who choose a different way of life. Please respect their privacy and refrain from trespassing on their land or taking photographs."

Amish author Stoll concludes, "Dust we are, to dust we shall return. Why frame and embellish and hang on the wall the pictures of this house of clay in which we live? Let us beware lest we permit Self to be exalted becoming unto us a graven image."



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Lancaster County's Stoltzfus Meats

BEEFING UP BACKPACKS

By Clinton Martin

Food Insecurity is a vexing problem in the United States. How can such a "first-world" nation have hungry people? Of course, the answer to this question is complicated, and messy. This article is not about why we have hungry families in America, but rather what the PA Beef Industry is doing about it, along with a further processor in Lancaster County.

Stoltzfus Meats, a meat producer headquartered in the village of Intercourse, one of Lancaster County's most famous towns, is crafting nutritious beef sticks made with PA beef for Pennsylvania children receiving weekend backpacks filled with food to help provide necessary nutrition to get them through the weekend.

Amos Stoltzfus grew up during the great depression, on an Amish farm in Intercourse, which is still owned by the family today. Periodically, his family would host "butchering day." A hog or two would be processed by the whole family into sausages, chops, hams, scrapple, pan pudding, etc. When he reached adulthood, he decided to expand this practice into a small business. 1954, Stoltzfus Meats had its first market stand, selling pork products.

By the end of the 1960s, he was processing 45 hogs a week, supplying market stands, and his own store right on site at the farm.

Today, the company has grown many times over and processes all manners of meat. A retail store in the heart of Intercourse is open daily except Sunday, selling meats, cheeses, and various local food products.

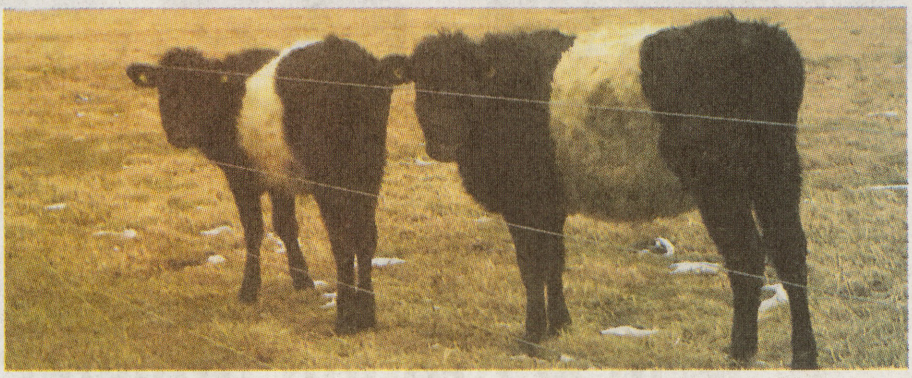
"Beefing Up Backpacks" is a program facilitated by the PA Beef Foundation, a non-profit operating on donations and grants alone, the charitable arm of the PA Beef Council. To date, private industry donors and beef producers have made it possible to manufacture the meat sticks along with the PA Department of Agriculture's support. Additionally, the new program has been blessed with partnering with Stoltzfus meats who brings a wealth of knowledge and the ability to provide a tasty protein-packed beef stick to adolescents in need. It takes the entire beef community to come together to help meet the need.

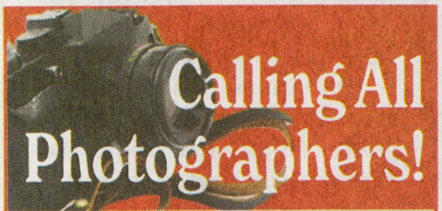
To be a part of Beef's fight on food insecurity consider donating at www.PABeef.org. Every dollar will help to go towards the direct cost to produce the beef sticks for youth across Pennsylvania.

The program has a goal of placing beef sticks into backpacks based on need for Pennsylvania's weekend food backpack recipients. The weekend backpack program essentially provides high-quality, nutritious food to children in Pennsylvania that might not otherwise

have access to consistent food at home. During the school year, many PA children count on breakfast and lunch, free or low-cost, at school each day to keep them fed. These children often don't have much at home, but at least during the week they get two dependable meals a day.

On the weekends however, school is not in session, and these children would often go hungry Saturday and Sunday. The "power packs" program was created to address this weekend food gap. Backpacks of food are sent home with these children, which have nonperishable items, easy to prepare, easy to eat, nutritious, well-rounded, and enough to keep them fed through the weekend. By using a backpack, an item every child, no matter their circumstances, goes to and from school with, the food is delivered in a stigma-free way.





AMISH COUNTRY NEWS 2025 Photo Contest

>> Now Accepting Entries! <<

Got great photos? Send them to us and see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News and win prizes!

Visit AmishCountryNews.com for Photo Contest prizes and more info. Email your HIGH RESOLUTION ONLY photos in JPG format to clinton@amishexperience.com (minimum size 8x10 at 300 DPI). Put 2025 Photo Contest in the subject line. File names should contain your name. Include your name, address and phone number with brief details of location and subject matter in the email. No more than five photos can be submitted. LOW RESOLUTION PIXELATED IMAGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Photos become property of Amish Country News / Amish Experience and may be used in upcoming issues, publications, and promotional materials.

DAIRY FARMS & ICE CREAM SHOPS

In & Around Amish Country

By Edward Blanchette

Aaaah, Summertime! Long hot days, Family Vacations & Barbeques, and Ice Cream! Yes, Summers & Ice Cream, they go perfectly together. And ice Cream is the one thing that can assist in taking the edge off from the heat of the day, topping off the end of a great meal, or to just put a smile on a child's face. Whether you're nine months or ninety years young, it's Ice Cream that brings the biggest smile of approval, hands down! Definitely the go-to for most people this time of year. And why not? This frozen treat comes in a multitude of flavors, colors, and sizes. Not to mention a variety of ingredients to satisfy even the pickiest of consumers. From hard scooped to soft serve that create the Banana Splits, Hot-Fudge Sundays, your favorite flavored shake, to even the simplest vanilla cone be it waffle cone or standard, Ice Cream has certainly come a long way from its meager beginnings.

It's believed that the precursors to Ice Cream originated as far back as "2700 BCE". It is also believed that "early" Ice Cream was also created during the Tang Dynasty of China (618 to 907 CE), the iced milk that had been so popular in earlier dynasties had become a widespread delicacy. But in America, the first Ice Cream Parlor was believed to have been opened in New York City in 1776. American colonists were the first to use the term "Ice Cream". The name came from the phrase "iced cream", which was similar to "iced tea". The name was later abbreviated to "Ice Cream", the name we know today*.

From there, the many innovations for this frozen treat took off**.

- In the **1840s** the first ice cream churn was invented.
- In **1851** the first ice cream plant was opened.
- In the **1880s** the Ice Cream Sunday was born.
- In **1904** the first waffle cone made its debut at the "World's Fair" in St. Louis, MO.
- In **1970** a man named H.P. Hood introduced a soft-serve frozen dessert, first served on the US's east coast to limited success in the 1970s, dubbed the name "Frogurt".
- In **1978** Brigham's Ice Cream Shop in Boston developed and introduced the first packaged frozen yogurt under the product name "Humphreez Yogart".
- In **1980-81** the first patents for Lactose-reduced ice cream and process for the production of and for this specific creation of Lactose-reduced Ice Cream was created***.

Now, with all of the technology and the sophistication that Ice Cream is today and with the average American consuming approximately 19.7 pounds of ice cream annually. Though the majority of ice cream may be sold through grocery stores, and not restaurants****, we still have our favorite spots to frequent and go to, to indulge ourselves with this awesomely delicious—frozen tasty treat, be it with friends & family, or just by yourself. It's always a welcome & tasty escape. In "Amish Country" there are certainly a bunch of locations that serve or sell that frozen treat, that is Ice Cream. But I would be a miss, if I did not mention the additional prime locations to the Ice Cream Shops that also serve this

*Google – History of Ice Cream – manyeats.com/history-of-ice-cream/

**Google – History of Ice Cream – www.thoughtco.com/history-of-ice-cream-1991770

***Google – US4374861A – patents.google.com

****Kristin Runge, UW-Extension: kristin.runge@ces.uwex.edu; Twitter@RungeKristin

Image: Realistic Dripping Chocolate by upklyak on Freepik

1 Countryside Roadstand
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2 Down on the Farm Creamery
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4 Pine View Dairy
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6 Twilight Acres Creamery & Bakery
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8 Waters Edge Mini Golf
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9 Bird-In-Hand Bake Shop
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bihbakeshop.com
See ad on page 38

10 Shady Maple Farm Market
1324 Main Street, East Earl
800-238-7363
shady-maple.com/farm-market/
See ad on page 13

11 Hershey's Chocolate World
101 Chocolate World Way, Hershey · 717-534-4900
chocolateworld.com
See ad on page 37

12 Town Edge Dairy
1126 Martindale Road, Ephrata · 717-209-0734
thefamilyfarmresource.com/farms/towns-edge-dairy/

13 Crystal Cave
963 Crystal Cave Road, Kutztown
610-683-6765
crystalcavepa.com
See ad on page 6

14 Patches Family Creamery
201 Fonderwhite Road, Lebanon
717-273-1983
patchesfamily creamery.com

15 Perrydell Farm & Dairy
90 Indian Rock Dam Road, York
717-741-3485
perrydellfarm.com

"Dairy Treat". That being the multiple Dairy Creamery locations that dot the landscape of Lancaster County and the counties that surround all that is "Lancaster Pennsylvania". From milk, cheeses, to Ice cream. You can usually find all of your dairy needs in these locations that specialize in all-things dairy. And in some, you might even find a bit more farmland treasures, that being baked goods and some local produce. Routing out any other remaining cravings or needs you may have, to what one might perceive as a one-stop shopping experience.

As we wind down our summer, remember to look for and support these unique small businesses if you can, especially after a difficult 15 to 18 months of community & business disruptions due to world events and recognize how special those businesses are in our hearts and for what they have to offer to our communities with their special contribution. Listed are a number of locations of where you *might* go. As our summer soon comes to an end and you travel through "Amish Country" feeling the need to indulge those cravings and enjoy a cool refreshing & tasty treat, that is of course...Ice Cream.

Small Business Spotlight

An Artist's Self-Taught LOVE & PERCEPTION of All Things Art & Amish

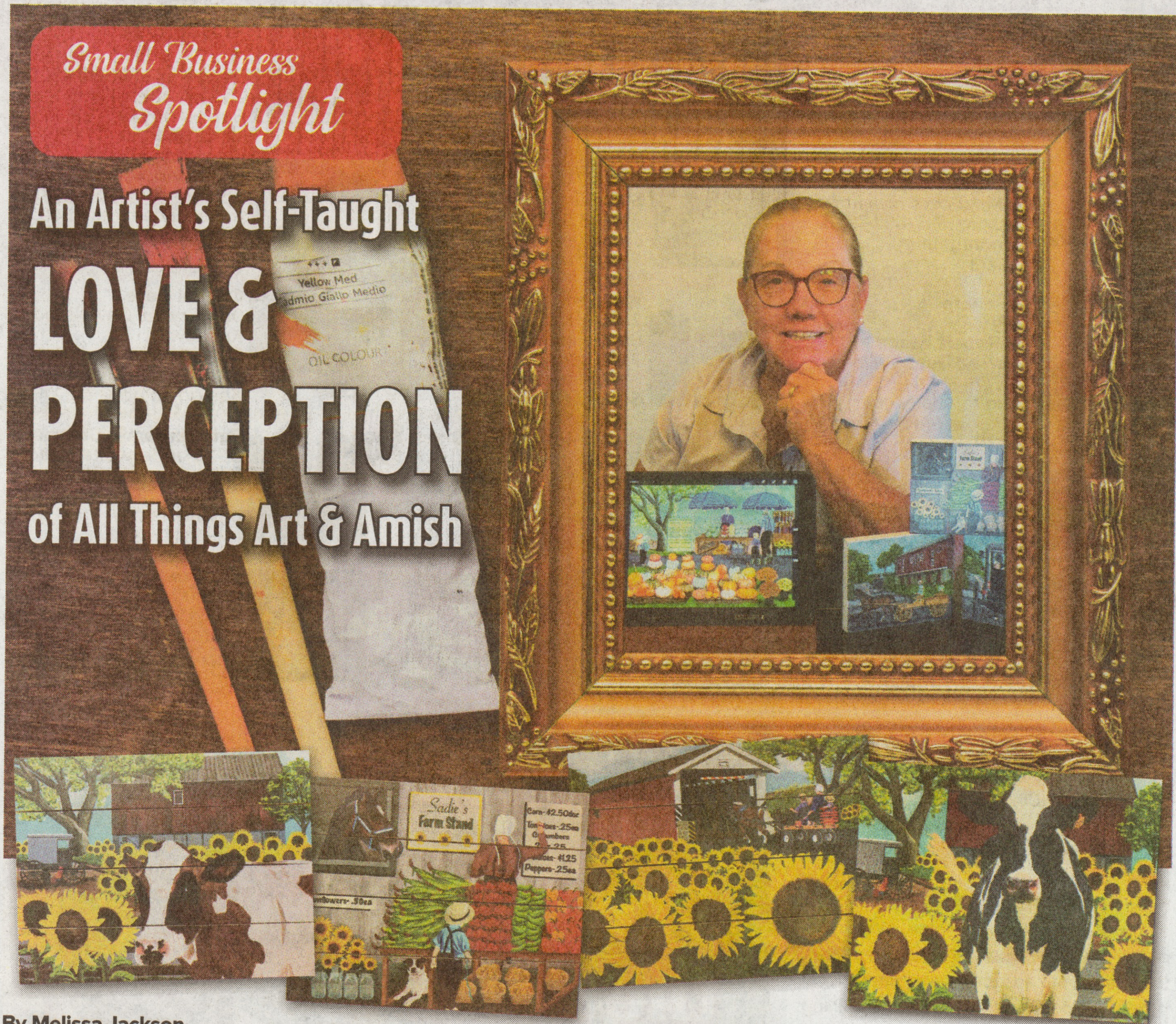


Image: Paint and Brushes with Empty Frame by Freepik

By Melissa Jackson

I have been interested in art since I was 12 years old. Mainly doing pencil drawings, which was sparked, when my brother Bob, brought home a fellow Navy buddy home on military leave at the time for a visit. Bob's buddy's name was Darryl, and Darryl was very good at art. Another way to broaden my artistic horizons, I purchased a few art books. I remember the price of the books were $1.00 each. Makes me chuckle at the price compared to today. I still have those original art books. During my teenage years, in high school, I took art as one of my electives. My art teacher assigned weekly drawing projects, which helped hone my skills and broaden my artistic experience.

As time went on artwork disappeared from my life. When my Husband and I had started a leathercraft business together, that took a lot of my time. Although the leathercrafting was another form of art, too. After many years, I got back into creating art. This time, it was on my Apple iPad with the Apple Pencil, with an application named "Procreate". I have been working with Procreate for 9 or 10 years. Most of the items that I draw and paint come from photos that I have taken in the Amish Country. I love riding around the Amish Country looking for interesting things to photograph. Capturing Amish Life with the simplicity, beauty, and rich cultural heritage of the Amish community, that has been at the center of my creations.

Using Procreate is like having millions of colors at your fingertip with endless brushes (you can even make up your own brushes). It's a powerful program that I would recommend it to anyone. Depending on the size of your canvas, that governs the number of layers that are available. The layers are very important, to keep parts of the painting separate. Just think if you hate what you just did, you can delete

***Love & Perception** cont'd on page 18*

REMINDERS
for Visitors to Amish Country

Although thousands of visitors come to Lancaster County to experience a bit of the Amish lifestyle, the Amish are a private people and find the attention somewhat disconcerting. It is important to respect their feelings while you're visiting. With that in mind, here are a few tips for fostering good relations between the Amish and non–Amish.

NO PICTURES Please! Don't ask an Amish person to pose for a picture. Most will politely refuse. It is against our Amish neighbors convictions to have their pictures taken, except in very special situations. Please respect this belief and do not take photos without permission, just as you would like to have your beliefs respected.

HOLD YOUR HORSES Driving along area roads, you will no doubt encounter numerous Amish carriages, or "buggies," as visitors like to call them. Do not honk your horn, because the sound may frighten the horse and cause an accident. Instead, wait until it is safe to pass and then give the buggy plenty of room. Be sure not to cut back in the lane too sharply in front of the horse. The county's roads are generally wide enough that you should be able to pass most buggies without much of a problem.

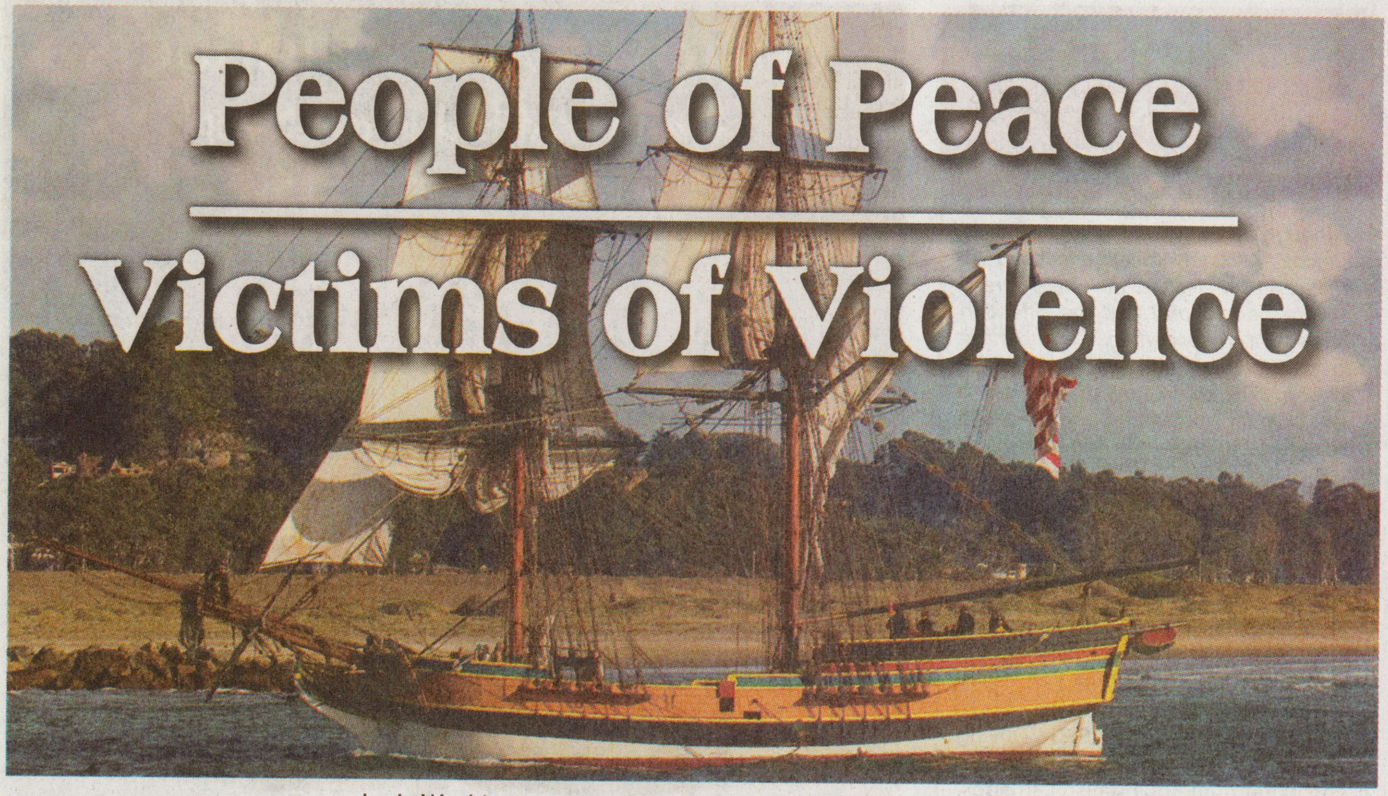
NO TRESPASSING Do not trespass onto private Amish property for a closer look. Amish homes are not museums, and Amish people are not exhibits. Respect their property and privacy as you would like others to respect your own. You can get a good sense of Amish life at many area visitor attractions and on guided tours.

WAVING Do not be offended if the Amish do not wave back to your friendly gesture. With all the people who wave to them throughout a day, they would be waving back all day if they did!

A FINAL WORD Remember the Amish are not on vacation and are not costumed actors. They are real people going about their daily lives. They are not here to serve as tour guides or attractions for visitors. This, after all, is their home, so please respect their beliefs and lifestyle.

People of Peace

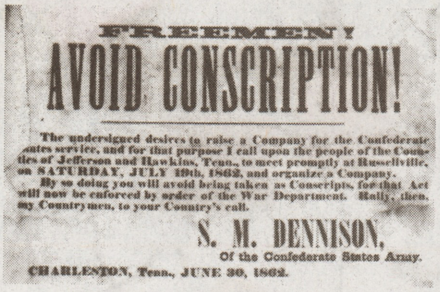
Victims of Violence



Lady Washington, a modern replica of a 1700's sailing ship, similar to the "Charming Nancy".
Credit: Wikimedia.org/"MIKE" Michael L. Bard

By Brad Igou

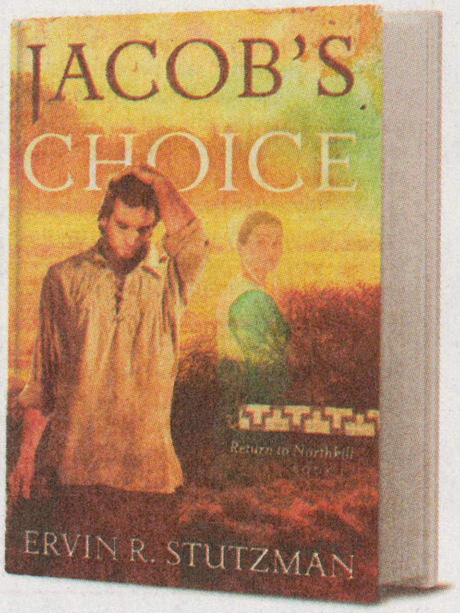
The Amish seem to lead a quiet and peaceful lifestyle, yet they are sometimes the victims of violence, in the October of 2006 Amish school shootings made all too clear. This series offers a brief overview of the Anabaptist position of non-resistance in times of war and peace, from their origins over 450 years ago through the end of the 20th century



PART 2: Colonial America through the Civil War

In the early 1700s, Amish, Mennonites, and other religious groups began arriving from Europe in William Penn's colony (Pennsylvania) in America, after an arduous ocean voyage of two or three months, during which many died. Of such voyages, we have these words from a passenger's diary kept on the ship "Charming Nancy" in 1737... On the 29th of July, three children died. On the first of August my Hanseli died, and the Tuesday previous five children died. On the 3rd of August, contrary winds beset the vessel and from the first to the 7th of the month three more children died... Landed in Philadelphia on September the 18th, and my wife and I left the ship on the 19th. A child was born to us on the 20th—died—wife recovered. A voyage of 83 days.

Early Conflicts It seemed that they had finally found a place where they could escape persecution and live in peace with their neighbors, although there were some attacks upon them during the French and Indian War. The most famous story is about the Jacob Hochstetler family. Attacked by Indians in 1757, Jacob refused to allow anyone to take up arms against the attackers. Practicing non-resistance, they locked themselves in the cabin and hid in the basement when the house was set on fire. As they tried to escape through the cellar window, all were caught and killed, except Jacob and two sons. They were separated from their father, who escaped, but was not reunited with his sons until years later. With the outbreak



of the Revolutionary War, some unusual difficulties arose. As John Hostetler wrote in AMISH SOCIETY, "Their opposition to taking the oath of allegiance and joining the militia was interpreted by patriots as an alignment with the British. The Amish, unlike the Quakers, generally paid the war tax but disclaimed any responsibility for its use." According to Steven Nolt in his HISTORY OF THE AMISH, the Amish were caught between the Tories and the Patriots, and neither side cared to recognize the non-resistant stance of "peace churches." The turbulent political times resulted in some Amish young people taking up arms, much to the dismay of their families, while in some cases, contributions were made instead of military service. In Berks County in 1775, Isaac Kauffman was jailed and charged with treason for refusing to hand over a horse. According to Richard MacMaster, the Amishman declared, "You are rebels, and I will not give a horse to such bloodthirsty persons." He lost half of his land and remained in prison until the conclusion of the war.

The Civil War We have some information on how the Amish fared during the Civil War, when their belief in non-resistance again brought them under suspicion on both sides. The moral and political issues again tore some families apart, as some joined the ranks. The 1863 Federal Conscription Act allowed the hiring of substitutes, and some Amish and Mennonite communities raised thousands of dollars for those members facing the draft, who could avoid it with a $300 "commutation fee." Lancaster's "Tennessee John" Stoltzfus was one of the Amish who hired a substitute to take his place. According to Paton Yoder in his book TRADITION & TRANSITION, he "kept a blue coat in his attic...from the man he had hired as a substitute, later killed in battle. Occasionally John retrieved the coat and reverently polished the brass buttons in remorseful meditation." Stories tell of some Amish in the South who had their farms occupied, and their food and property confiscated by the troops. Obviously for farmers, horses were needed for their work, but horses were also highly sought by the soldiers. The following is an excerpt from an article in the Amish magazine Family Life, reprinted in the book THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS, in which Mary Elizabeth Yoder writes about one such incident in Maryland....

At dawn, the Swartzentrubers were routed from sleep by hundreds of starving soldiers demanding food.

When the bread supply was exhausted, they ordered Mrs. Swartzentruber to make buckwheat cakes. The starving rebels crowded into the kitchen, eating batter from the bowl, or pouring it directly onto the stove and devouring the half-baked cakes. They swarmed around the spring like thirsty cattle and drank up all the water. They raided the pantry and cellar of all that was eatable. Some jerked a setting hen from her nest and ate her eggs raw, unhatched chicks and all. Others milked the cows and slaughtered one, roasting the meat over open fires on the lawn. When the soldiers left, they took the bedding & clothing, Mr. Swartzentruber's watch, and all that could be carried along. They drove their cattle and horses ahead of them.... This was a hard blow for the Swartzentrubers, who had lost their first two infants to death in the preceding two years.

David Luthy, again writing in Family Life, tells of a Missouri Amish boy, Christian Raber, whose companion was shot by a drunken Union soldier. Later, the soldier was tried, acquitted, and discharged. Just as issues of slavery divided the nation, the conflict brought on by the Civil War added to the turmoil in the Amish church between progressives and conservatives, and questions of integration versus separatism, tradition versus change. In the years immediately following the war, the Amish church divided as well.

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Love & Perception *cont'd from page 14*

that layer or fix it up. People ask me, "How long it takes to create a picture? It's hard to tell, because I have been working on that particular project for

days. To start creating a picture, I figure out what I want the overall picture to look like. Then I import a photo that I want to use a part of, like a horse & buggy, and make a contour drawing of it to get an outline on of the subject. Then I resize the photo, so I can see the subject and what colors that would be needed to apply then create it in the drawing. At times, I create the object on a newly created canvas, and eventually copy and paste it in the project that I am currently working on. When you examine my artwork, I do use objects in other creations. One layer that I have used a few times, was a crate with my 2 Jack Russell's in the artwork, Carlos and Charlie, they are gone now but not forgotten.

I have included a picture of a llama and a horse and open wagon, showing the pictures of each drawing and the original photo. The picture with the Amish was embellished with vegetables, while the original had some buckets and wood. After I finalize my artwork creations, the original artwork file is then printed on pallet art and

block art, by a local wholesale vendor. My artwork is available at our store, **Jake's Country Trading Post**, 2954 Lincoln Highway East, Gordonville, Pa 17529 (On Route 30 near Paradise.) You can also order from our website: www.jakeshomeaccents.com, under the category, "Amish Country Gifts".

My Amish Life Pallet Art and Block Art have a lot of detail and provide an authentic glimpse into the Amish way of life. From my artistic perspective, I try to capture the essence of Amish culture, including their traditional clothing, horse-drawn buggies, and communal activities. Trying to make accurate representations of Amish clothing, with men in broad-brimmed hats and suspenders, and women in bonnets and long dresses. I hope that I can provide viewers with a window into the serene and purposeful world of the Amish, and that my artwork pictures might become a cherished addition to your home.

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EXPLORE the Amish Country Homestead, the region's only Officially Designated Heritage Site Amish home then sit at a desk in the Fisher Amish Schoolroom furnished authentically with desks and more from an actual Amish classroom.

TOUR the magnificent back roads through Amish Farmlands with a certified tour guide in complete comfort onboard one of our 14 passenger busses.

SATISFY yourself that you're making the most from your Amish Experience. Since 1959, the area's first, and still foremost, interpretative source of Amish Culture.

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Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey along back country roads, deep into the Amish Farmlands to discover sights rarely seen. Under the watchful eye of your certified guide, you'll gain insights into the "how" and "why"of an ever-changing culture, and see at-the-moment activities of the Amish. If you've seen the Amish portrayed on the various "Reality" TV shows, and you wonder what really is true and not true about the Amish, this is the tour you won't want to miss! We'll debunk myths about the Amish and provide accurate, respectful, and authentic information, just like we have done for over 60 years.

Duration: 1 ½ hours
Mon.-Sat. 10 A.M., 12 P.M., 2 P.M., 4 P.M.
Sun. 12 P.M., 2 P.M., 4 P.M.

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Rare is the opportunity to meet with Amish families willing to share their traditions and beliefs with you. In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour to be designated an official "Heritage Tour" by the County of Lancaster. Visit an Amish farm at milking time, stop at a Cottage Industry, and finally enjoy a visit and chat with one of our Amish friends in their home.

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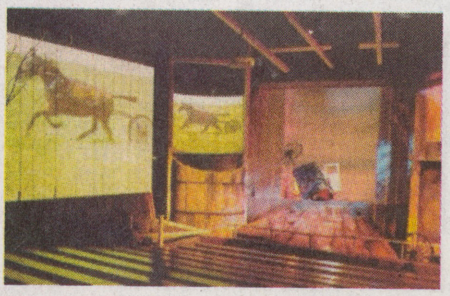
Drive along the area's only AAA Scenic Cultural Byway, and when you're mid–way between Bird–in–Hand and Intercourse, you'll discover the ten pristine acres known as Plain & Fancy Farm, and home of the Amish Experience Theater, Country Homestead, farmlands & VIP tours, buggy rides, shopping, restaurant and hotel.

Amish Country Homestead & Schoolroom

Visit the only officially designated "Heritage Site" Amish house. As you walk through the nine rooms with your guide, unravel the riddle of Amish clothing, life without electricity, and eight–grades–in–a–room education as you sit at authentic Amish school desks.

Visit–in–Person Tour

This officially designated "Heritage Tour" is a rare opportunity to meet and talk to the Amish personally. On this exclusive tour you will go right into the barn on an Amish farm at milking time, visit with an Amish artisan at his workplace, and then enjoy a personal visit and conversation right in an Amish home.



Jacob's Choice at the Amish Experience Theater

Discover what it means to be Amish through an immersive film as you become part of the emotional struggle of the Fisher family to preserve more than 400 years of Amish traditions. Five viewing screens, a unique barnyard setting and special effects create a one–of–a–kind experience.

Amish Farmlands Tour

Journey down rarely traveled back country roads, deep into the farmlands, to discover the sights sought after by visitors. Gain insights into the hows and whys of an ever–changing culture from certified guides in mini–shuttles. Stops may include a roadside stand, quilt shop, country store or craft shop on an Amish farm.

Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides

Aaron & Jessica's drivers are happy to share life stories and answer questions.

Smokehouse BBQ and Brews

Please see right hand page.

The Barn & Hearth Shop

Find home décor, home goods, and kitchenware. Plus, locally made foods and baked goods. You'll also find Amish mementos from straw hats to Amish dolls.

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A Top Hotel in Lancaster County

The place for the perfect adult-only getaway or family vacation with indoor pool and hot tub, fitness center, and hot hearty breakfast. Our rooms and suites all feature kitchenettes, and many rooms feature clawfoot soaking tubs, and farmland views.

Adult-Only AND Kid-Friendly Buildings
The family-friendly East Building includes a wide array of beautiful, award-winning rooms, suites that are newly renovated as well as a pool and arcade that will satisfy the requirements of any family. The adults-only West Building features elegant Grand King rooms with clawfoot soaking tubs and guaranteed farmland views - fulfilling the needs of adults seeking a tranquil escape.

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Lancaster's best complimentary hot breakfast buffet includes made-to-order omelets, eggs, and waffles along with endless helpings of bacon, sausage, country potatoes and much more. Plus, don't forget tasty bakery items from our own Miller's Bakery. Menu items subject to change.

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Every room or suite includes a kitchenette with refrigerator, microwave, sink, and coffee maker. Bathrooms feature lighted make-up mirrors, hair dryers, and the Tarocco line of shampoos and soaps. Plus, complimentary Wi-Fi. Book today as there are so many things to do on Plain & Fancy Farm.

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Paradise

For over 250 years, visitors coming into Lancaster County from the east on Route 30 have traveled through a small town known as Paradise, just one of the many intriguing town names in the area. Officially, Paradise Township adopted the name during its organization in 1843.

Different sources credit different people with naming the area. Some say that the name Paradise was given by Joshua Scott, who later became known for his map of Lancaster County. Standing in the middle of a road admiring his surroundings one day in 1804, he remarked that the town should be called Paradise, because its beauty made it seem like one.

The story of Paradise and its first settlers goes all the way back to Europe, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany. Here many Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. With fears of invasion by the army of France looming, many of these people decided to accept the invitation to settle in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods in the New World. In 1708, Daniel Fierre (Ferree), along with his family and mother Mary, went to England to obtain citizenship papers before proceeding to New York.

By 1712, these French Huguenot settlers had secured land in Pennsylvania, in Lancaster's Pequea Valley. They were the first white people in the area and lived peaceably with chief Tanawa and the local Indians. Mary Fierre died four years later at the age of 63. Hers became the first grave in the family's cemetery. If you ride the Strasburg Rail Road, you will pass her gravesite at Carpenter's Cemetery, one of Lancaster's oldest.

The origins of Route 30, also known as the "Lincoln Highway," go back to Lancaster's colonial days when this frontier county needed a communication route between it and the provincial capital of Philadelphia. At that time, the first "planned" road between

Paradise *cont'd on page 26*

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Paradise cont'd from page 24
Philadelphia and Lancaster was what is now Route 340. It was called the "King's Highway," and today we still call it the "Old Philadelphia Pike."

As time went on, it became evident that the road could not accommodate the increasing traffic between Lancaster and Philadelphia. Since the cost of such a road was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from the tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike.

The 1792 Act went on to describe the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with larger stones underneath, rather than dirt, so as to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. Such a revolutionary system of road construction combined the ideas recently developed by a Frenchman and two Englishmen, one of whom was named John McAdam. We now take the term for paved roads or "macadam" from his last name. The turnpike officially opened in 1795 and was the first long-distance, hard-surfaced road in the country.

The backroads around Paradise remain beautiful to this day, as the lush greens of the summer give way to the fall colors of the harvest season. So, during your visit to Lancaster, be sure to spend a little time in Paradise.

Gap Relief Auction

Saturday, August 8th & August 9th, 2025

This is an annual community celebration of generosity with food and a quilt and variety auction to support the relief, development and peace work of the Mennonite Central Committee. The Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast will be take-out only. Mud Sales are a unique Lancaster County tradition to raise funds for local volunteer fire companies. Happy Auctioning.

For more information visit lancasterpa.com/event/gap-relief-auction-2/ or call 717-687-9470. Tell them, "Amish Country News sent you"!

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Country Lane Furniture (Tues & Thurs till 8PM)
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Countryside Road-Stand
717-656-4474 | Store open until 6pm / Pretzel-Ice Cream shop only until 5pm
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610-683-6765 | CrystalCavePA.com
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
717–898–1900 | DutchApple.com
Dutch Haven
717–687–0111 | DutchHaven.com
Gish's Furniture
717–392–6080 | 717–354–2329 | Gishs.com
Good's Store
"Weekdays Only" | GoodsStores.com
Hershey's Chocolate World
717–534–4900 | Hersheys.com
Jake's Country Trading Post
717–687–8980 | JakesHomeAccents.com
Locally Made Food Shop
717–687–6621 | LocallyMadeFoodShop.com
Miller's Smorgasbord
800–669–3568 | MillersSmorgasbord.com
National Toy Train Museum
717-687-8976 | TCATrains.org/Museum/
Shady Maple Farm Market
717–354-4981 | Shady-Maple.com/farm-market/
Smokehouse BBQ & Brews at Plain & Fancy Farm
717–768–4400 | SmokehouseBBQandBrews.com
Village Greens Miniature Golf
717-687-6933 | VillageGreens.com
Water's Edge Mini Golf
717-768-4653 | WatersEdgeGolf.net

OPEN SUNDAY in AMISH COUNTRY

For Plain People, Sunday is a day of rest, but there are many things to do in Amish Country on Sundays. Save some of these for your Sunday sight–seeing.

Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides
717–768–8828 | AmishBuggyRides.com
A is for Amish Buggy Rides
717-875-8304 | AmishBuggyRidesLancaster.com
Amish Experience
717–768–8400 | AmishExperience.com
Anna's Gifts & Sundries
800–669–3568 | MillersSmorgasbord.com
Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall
717–442–2600 | CackleberryFarmAntiqueMall.com
Crystal Cave
610-683-6765 | CrystalCavePA.com
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
717–898–1900 | DutchApple.com
Dutch Haven
717–687–0111 | DutchHaven.com
Hershey's Chocolate World
717–534–4900 | Hersheys.com
Jake's Country Trading Post
717–687–8980 | JakesHomeAccents.com
Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery
717–626–4354 | JuliusSturgis.com
Locally Made Food Shop
717-687-6621 | LocallyMadeFoodShop.com
Miller's Smorgasbord
800–669–3568 | MillersSmorgasbord.com
National Toy Train Museum
717-687-8976 | TCATrains.org/museum/
The Quilt Shop at Miller's
717-687-8439 | QuiltShopAtMillers.com
Renninger's Antique Market
717–336–2177 | Renningers.net
Shady Maple Farm Market
717–354-4981 | Shady-Maple.com/farm-market/
Smokehouse BBQ & Brews at Plain & Fancy Farm
717–768–4400 | SmokehouseBBQandBrews.com
Turkey Hill Experience
844–847–4884 | TurkeyHillExperience.com
Village Greens Miniature Golf
717-687-6933 | VillageGreens.com
Water's Edge Mini Golf
717-768-4653 | WatersEdgeGolf.net

Lititz

There really is no place quite like Lititz, and everyone should plan to spend some time there while in Amish Country.

Lititz Springs Park is a popular spot for locals, and the site for many community activities. Indeed, the town's 4th of July Celebration, begun in 1818, is reputedly the "oldest continuing community-wide observance in the United States." The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. It was in the present-day Czech Republic that John Hus and followers founded the Moravian Church in 1457. Historians note that since this was 60 years before Luther's Reformation, the Moravians may lay claim to being the oldest organized Protestant Church. But over the course of the Thirty Years War, its 200,000 members nearly disappeared. In the 18th century, a renewal of the Moravian Church came through the patronage of Count Zinzendorf of Saxony. He invited all those persecuted for their faith to come to his lands in Saxony.

As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom by taking the perilous journey to the New World, arriving in the early 1700s, with the main settlements becoming established in Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Missionary work was integral to the faith, and preachers were sent from the Moravian community in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Zinzendorf himself arrived in America in 1742. A local resident, John Klein (Kline), was so moved by hearing Zinzendorf's preaching that he made arrangements to transfer his lands over to the Moravian community in 1755. It was in the following year that the town actually got the name of Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European Moravian reformers had taken refuge in 15th century. For about a hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. A Brothers' House and Sisters' House were erected for the unmarried men and women, although they did not live communally. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own houses.

The Brothers' House played a role in the American Revolution. George Washington ordered it used as a military hospital between 1777-78. Some 1,000 soldiers were nursed here, about half of whom died and were buried nearby.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz—Julius Sturgis. It was Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A tour of the bakery is unlike any other. Inside, you get to try your hand at pretzel twisting. It's not as easy as it looks. Guests also may see the old brick bake ovens, as well as the more modern facilities. Schedule a tour by calling the bakery at 717-626-4354.

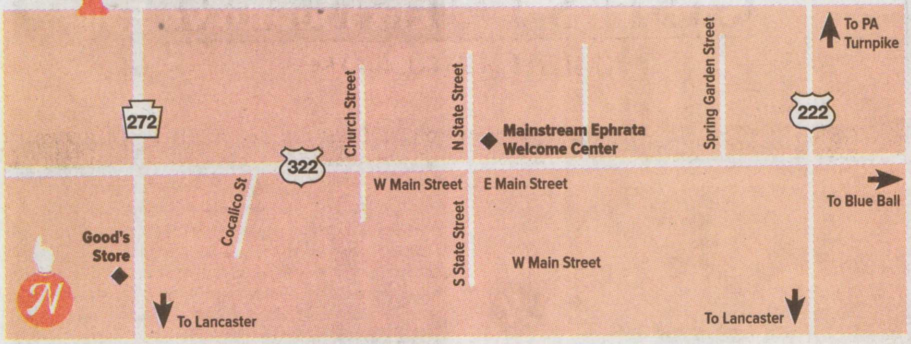
Elizabethtown Fair

August 18–23

The Elizabethtown Fair is one of 109 Pennsylvania State Fairs. We offer animal, agricultural, competitive and commercial exhibits. We have a free petting zoo, free nightly entertainment, contests for all ages, rides and lots of great food! Each August the Elizabethtown Fair provides an opportunity for the showcasing of agriculture in Lancaster County and surrounding counties. Many local civic organizations and church groups use the Fair as their principal fundraiser for the year. It is also an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to promote themselves.

For more information and details please visit etownfair.com or call 717-367-0508. Tell them, "Amish Country News sent you"!

Ephrata



Ephrata, a small yet influential town, derives its name from Genesis, meaning "fruitfulness." With a population of 13,800, it's strategically positioned between Lancaster and Reading, serving as the gateway to Northern Lancaster County's lucrative manufacturing sector.

Its history dates back to the 18th century Ephrata Cloister, founded by Conrad Beissel, which evolved into a thriving village. By 1871, Ephrata was described as "a well-built country town of about one hundred and twenty families, and very beautifully and healthily located."

In 1848, Senator Joseph Konigmacher established the Ephrata Mountain Springs Hotel, a luxurious resort frequented by notable figures like Presidents Lincoln, Buchanan, and Grant.

A trolley system was built to connect the hotel with the town of Ephrata down the hill. At its peak, the hotel could accommodate up to 500 visitors who would stay throughout the summer.

The Reading & Columbia Railroad was completed in 1883, and the town experienced economic booms through industries like cigar manufacturing, horse trade, silk, textiles, and shoes. Downtown Ephrata once catered to all needs, from groceries to hardware.

Today, Ephrata retains its historical charm with landmarks standing as important reminders of the borough's history. The community's first bank, Ephrata National Bank, still serves customers today behind its Georgian style structure designed by renowned architect, C. Emlen Urban.

Located near the town's square sits the circa 1880's railroad station, owned by the Ephrata Borough and serving as home to Mainspring of Ephrata, economic development corporation for the borough. The area surrounding the station has been beautifully landscaped and is known as the Whistle Stop Plaza. Many events, services and even weddings are held at this popular gathering place. The community's Welcome Center is also located in this building. From here, visitors and residents alike can download a historic walking tour through the Uniquely Ephrata app.

Recreation thrives with facilities like the Ephrata Rec Center, community pool, and the newly opened Ephrata Unleashed Dog Park. The Warwick-Ephrata Rail Trail and Heatherwood Bike Park offer outdoor activities, while quality education and healthcare are ensured through the Ephrata Area School District and award-winning Wellspan Ephrata Community Hospital.

Municipal services include police, code enforcement, and utility management, with the borough's own electric company providing power.

Ephrata is experiencing some significant revitalization that will secure a vibrant, healthy town for future generations. The borough, under the auspices of Mainspring of Ephrata, completed a walkability project in the downtown area that enhanced pedestrian safety, and launched a Façade Improvement Grant Program and Revolving Loan Fund Program to improve aesthetics and help businesses to expand. The borough continues to strengthen the economy by promoting available leased space within commercial properties, attracting specialty retailers, and preserving historic buildings.

Ephrata cont'd on page 32

Concerts by the Creek

August 12, 2025
6 p.m. - JON SMITH'S VOYAGES
7 p.m. - THE FLESHTONES

Ephrata's Grater Park is going to be rocking this summer with a stellar line-up of bands for the 2025 Concerts by the Creek season. In its 18th year, Concerts by the Creek is a free, all-ages concert series held in the park over the summer. Food trucks and one local brewery will attend this rain-or-shine series.

For more information and details please visit mainspringofephrata.org/event/concerts-by-the-creek-august-2/ or call 717-721-6169. Tell them, "Amish Country News sent you"!

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Next to Shady Maple Farm Market	Rt. 272 & Rothsville Rd. Intersection	Rt. 222 & Rt. 372 Intersection	Rt. 501 N. in Dutchway Plaza

Store Hours: Weekdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. • Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Closed Sunday

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*An * before name denotes coupon.*

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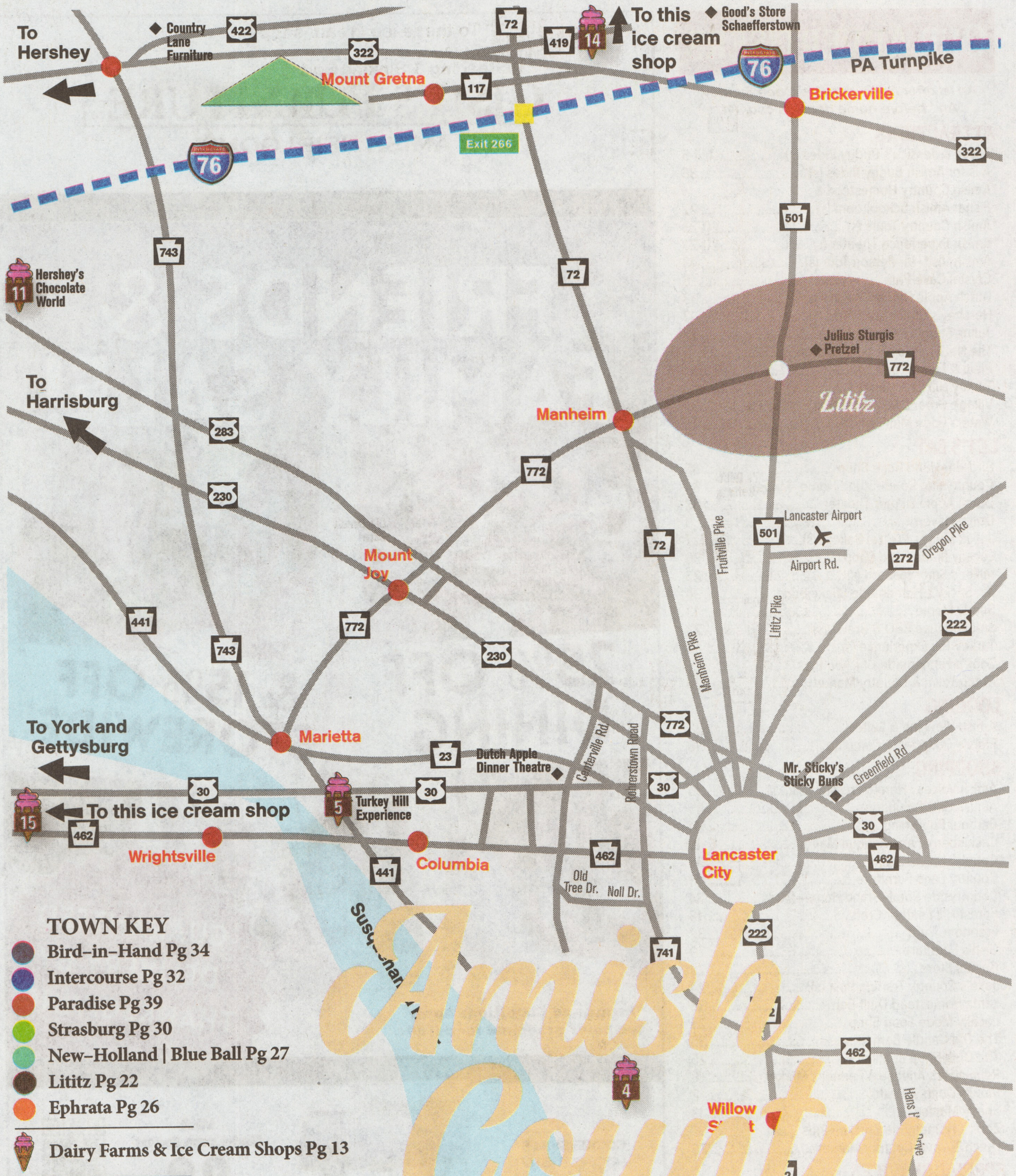

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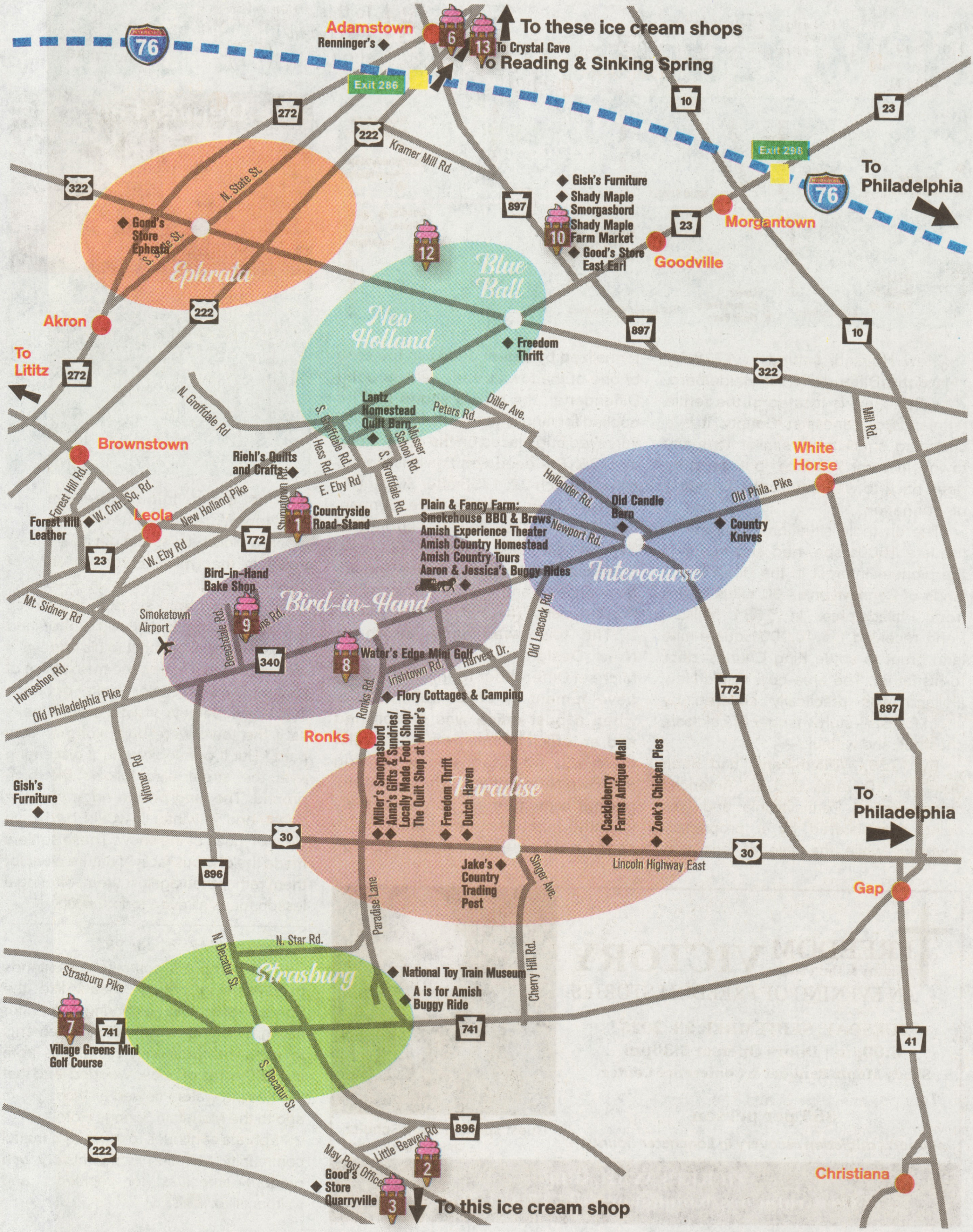
To these ice cream shops
To Crystal Cave
To Reading & Sinking Spring
Adamstown
Renninger's
Exit 286
Exit 298
76
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Morgantown
Goodville
Gish's Furniture
Shady Maple Smorgasbord
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S. State St.
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Akron
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Freedom Thrift
Brownstown
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Lantz Homestead Quilt Barn
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Diller Ave.
S. Groffdale Rd.
Hess Rd.
Musser School Rd.
S. Groffdale Rd.
Riehl's Quilts and Crafts
Stumptown Rd.
E. Eby Rd
Countryside Road-Stand
Forest Hill Rd.
W. Cntr. Sq. Rd.
Forest Hill Leather
Leola
New Holland Pike
W. Eby Rd
Plain & Fancy Farm:
Smokehouse BBQ & Brews
Amish Experience Theater
Amish Country Homestead
Amish Country Tours
Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides
Hollander Rd.
Newport Rd.
Old Candle Barn
Old Phila. Pike
White Horse
Country Knives
Intercourse
Mill Rd.
Mt. Sidney Rd
Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop
Bird-in-Hand
Smoketown Airport
Beechdale Rd.
Water's Edge Mini Golf
Harvest Dr.
Irishtown Rd.
Old Leacock Rd.
Horseshoe Rd.
Old Philadelphia Pike
Flory Cottages & Camping
Ronks Rd.
Ronks
Miller's Smorgasbord
Anna's Gifts & Sundries/
Locally Made Food Shop/
The Quilt Shop at Miller's
Freedom Thrift
Dutch Haven
Paradise
Cackleberry Farms Antique Mall
Zook's Chicken Pies
Witmer Rd
Gish's Furniture
Jake's Country Trading Post
Singer Ave.
Lincoln Highway East
To Philadelphia
Gap
N. Star Rd.
Paradise Lane
N. Decatur St.
Strasburg
Strasburg Pike
National Toy Train Museum
A is for Amish Buggy Ride
Cherry Hill Rd.
Village Greens Mini Golf Course
S. Decatur St.
Little Beaver Rd
May Post Office
Good's Store Quarryville
To this ice cream shop
Christiana

New Holland & Blue Ball

New Holland, settled in 1728 by John Diffenderfer of Heidelberg, Germany, is located in the fertile farmlands of Lancaster County. It is a charming small town similar to many towns in rural America, but its story goes back to well before the founding of our nation.

The unstable situation in Europe in the late 1600s spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania—60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. The area now called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timber of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut.

By 1728, William Penn, had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania and was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds. In the case of one of the town's early settlers, John Diffenderfer, the record shows that he applied for land to live on in 1728. It was surveyed and placed on the county map in 1735. The deed was finally issued to him on March 22, 1758 after 30 years!

The village founders were German, not Dutch. They were surrounded by English and Welsh Quakers, Episcopalians, a few Swiss-German Mennonites and some Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The Amish arrived later.

The town was once known as New Design, a name given by Michael Diffendefer for his real estate development in 1750. But in 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no dissension to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them when they fled persecution and sought religious freedom in the New World.

New Holland was laid out as a "street town" in the typical European style of having the villagers live in a central location along both sides of the street, but each having an outlying plot of land to cultivate as an adjunct to his trade as a craftsman. Even today, the main street of New Holland has major "kinks" or bends in it. Unsympathetic visitors claim it looks as if the town were built along a "cow path." But if one looks with a discerning eye, the street also follows the high ground. The land on the ridge was the driest, and in winter it would be blown clear of much of the snow. These settlers made the obvious facts of nature work for them rather than against them, offering a lesson for us all even today.

The Denver Fair

September 9–13, 2025

The Denver Fair is excited to announce the 2025 Denver Fair being held September 9-13 at Denver Memorial Park! Featuring rides, games, entertainment, food, fireworks, exhibits, animals & more! Free admission and free midway entertainment & musical entertainment throughout the week. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please visit thedenverfair.com or call 717-844-4198. Tell them, "Amish Country News sent you"!

Ephrata cont'd from page 28

The borough's commitment extends to preserving natural assets like the Ephrata Mountain, exploring plans for hiking trails and conservation easements to enhance community living. It is from this 200 acres of public wooded land that the healing waters flowed all those years ago to the Mountain Springs Hotel.

Ephrata continues to thrive as a fruitful community, blending its rich history with modern amenities for residents and visitors alike.

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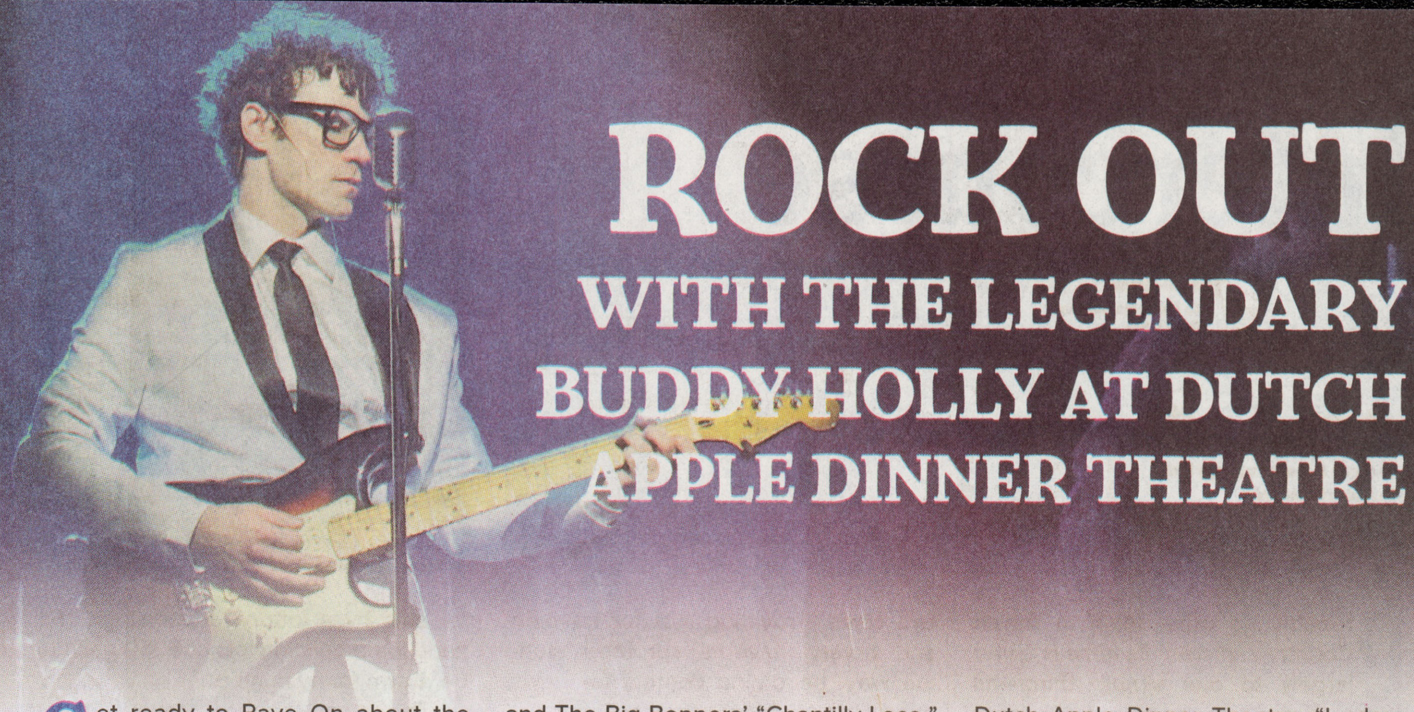


ROCK OUT
WITH THE LEGENDARY BUDDY HOLLY AT DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE

Get ready to Rave On about the rock 'n' roll legend that changed music forever! The music that started it all – Buddy, The Buddy Holly Story is rockin' it at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre August 15 through September 20. See the man, hear the music, and relive the life of the bespeckled kid from Texas who, in three short years, made an impact on rock and roll that lives on.

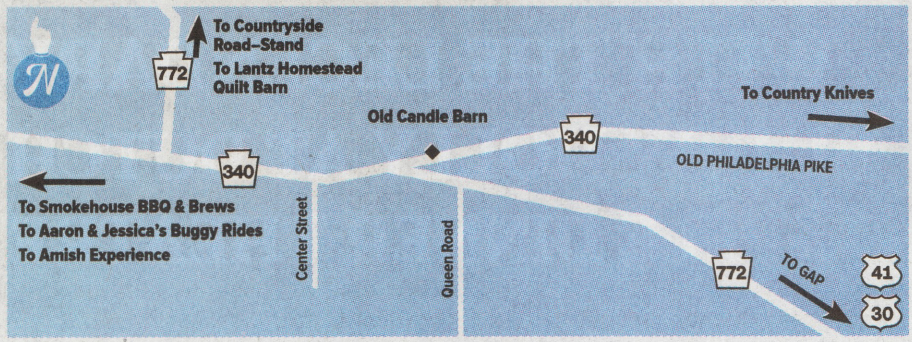
This electrifying production tells the inspiring story of Buddy Holly's meteoric rise to fame from his early days in Lubbock, Texas, to his tragic death in 1959, celebrating his original sound and remarkable talent. The show features many of Holly's greatest hits, as well as songs by other artists like Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper, who were also on the fateful tour the day the music died. It's a celebration of his music and follows Buddy Holly's journey from a country and western musician to a rock and roll pioneer. It highlights his innovative approach to music, his songwriting talent, and his influence on the next generation of musicians. The show also touches on his brief but impactful career, his marriage to Maria Elena Santiago, and the events leading up to his death.

Audiences will be treated to live performances of over 20 of Buddy Holly's greatest hits, including "Maybe Baby," "Every Day," "Peggy Sue," "That'll Be The Day," "Oh Boy," and "Rave On," as well as Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba" and The Big Boppers' "Chantilly Lace." Experience the energy, music, and legacy of a true rock-and-roll legend in this unforgettable musical journey.

Hunter Henrickson will be reprising his role as Buddy Holly after appearing in Buddy, The Buddy Holly Story at Broadway Palm, the sister theatre of Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. "I adore this cast and production so much and I'm grateful for the chance to return to a show that's given me more than he could've imagined," states Henrickson.

Get tickets at DutchApple.com, 717-898-1900, 510 Centerville Road, Lancaster, PA.

Intercourse



Probably no other town in Amish Country can claim its fame is owed largely to one simple thing—its name. For years people have sent letters home with the name stamped boldly on the envelope... Intercourse, PA. There are several explanations for the name, and they are woven into the brief history that follows.

In the beginning, of course, there was very little here, just settlers arriving in the New World from Europe. Back around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (or Old Philadelphia Pike, Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with the inland town of Lancaster. Conestoga wagons, pulled by six to eight horses, hauled supplies and freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and business transactions.

And that is how the town got started when the first building, a log tavern, was constructed in 1754. The Newport Road, a former Indian trail, came from Newport, Delaware to the south, and it is believed that because of these intersecting roads the tavern took "Cross Keys" as its name.

That was true at least until 1814, when it was named Intercourse in a real estate scheme to establish a more sizable town. George Brungard had acquired 48 acres of land north of the roads in 1813. He attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of $250 each to be drawn for by number."

The newspaper advertisement stressed "the great importance of so many turnpikes and great leading roads intersecting at and near this place." As one writer has noted, in those days "intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which was so much more common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village of that day." There was no hesitancy on the part of the United States Post office Department to accept the name 'Intercourse' since it meant a commercial or trading site.

But back to our story and Brungard's scheme. Although lotteries had been used for many years to sell various things, his real estate lottery failed, and most of the land was combined into one tract. More recently, in 1971, another person tried to take advantage of the town's name and sell one-inch square plots of property to visitors. This plan proved to be a flop as well.

In the old days, there were only five houses, counting the inn, and the town grew slowly. But by 1880, Intercourse had 54 homes and a population of 280. Communications improved with the arrival of the post office, and later the telephone.

Getting the first post office up and running was a difficult matter. The main problem was finding a building and someone willing to perform the duties of a postmaster. The first, Benjamin Fraim, performed his duties

from the Cross Keys Tavern, and may have had a job working there, since "his income, based on a percentage of the postal transactions for the year ending 1829 was only $8.21." Over the years the post office moved among stores or restaurants whose owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service apparently started around 1898. It was "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." The stagecoach brought items from Lancaster City for local Intercourse businesses, and even picked up milk, butter, and eggs for delivery to Lancaster restaurants and industries, including an ice cream plant. One history of Intercourse notes that when it snowed, a bobsled was used instead. "When the driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort was added to by many a hot brick heated the night before in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve its warmth."

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach days with the Rowe Motor Truck service started by Coleman Diller in 1910. In 1923 the Penn Highway Transit Company was organized and initiated bus service to Lancaster. It is noted that "many of the Amish residents of the area were anxious to see the line started, but did not care to subscribe to stock. Instead they liberally bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." By 1924 enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for $6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Since the town never really got to be "too large," it has retained much of its sense of community, from the little public library in a former one-room school to the volunteer fire company. Surrounded by farms, the town has grown little and aretains much of its former charm, even when thousands of visitors descend upon it during the tourist season.

Many residents and visitors enjoy the atmosphere of this small town, a place where family, community, religion, and hard work are still important values. The village of Intercourse has certainly changed over the years, but it has changed slowly, and "sometimes the things that grow the slowest are the ones that endure the longest."

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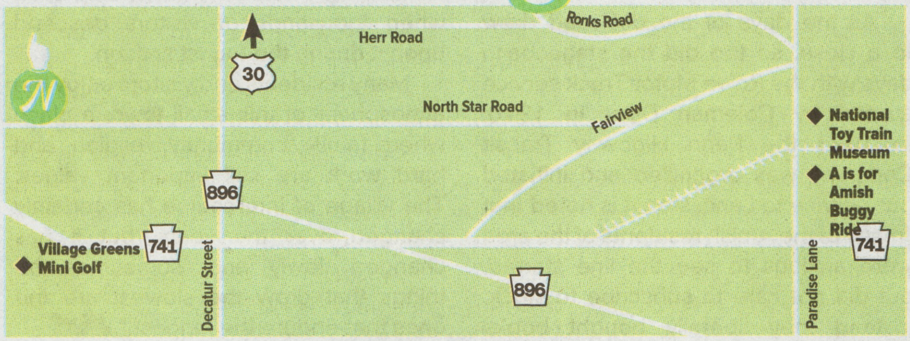
Strasburg



The area we know today as Strasburg was first settled by German-speaking Swiss Mennonites. After bargaining with William Penn in London, they came directly to Philadelphia from the Rhineland, arriving in September of 1710, on board the ship *Maria Hope*—with a combined passenger and crew list of 94 persons. Thirty-six of the leaders were granted patent deeds from Penn's property commissioners for 14,000 acres of land surrounding Strasburg. Some of the family names are familiar to locals today, including John (Hans) Herr, whose house in Lancaster County is open to visitors and remains as the county's oldest surviving dwelling (1719).

French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River—known as "Minqua's Path." As early as 1716, when the first Conestoga wagon was used for hauling goods between Philadelphia and Lancaster County, it became known as the Conestoga Road.

During the next half century, traffic on this road increased considerably—and Main Street Strasburg was developed. The first buildings appeared in the village about 1733. Strasburg flourished in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster and the Susquehanna River. Strasburg was one of the principal stopping stations and, with the heavy wagon traffic, there were as many as ten taverns here.

No doubt the religious nature of the first settlers was responsible for the village becoming a center for worship and education. In 1816, when the village was incorporated into a Borough, the name Strasburg was selected, undoubtedly named for the Cathedral City from which the Swiss Mennonites came, the Alsatian city of Strasbourg.

Wealthy doctors and clergy, and an interest in worship and education, made Strasburg a cultural and educational center for the region. The first formal school opened in 1790, a

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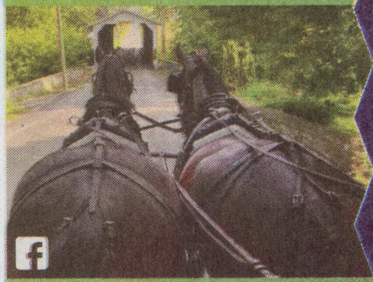

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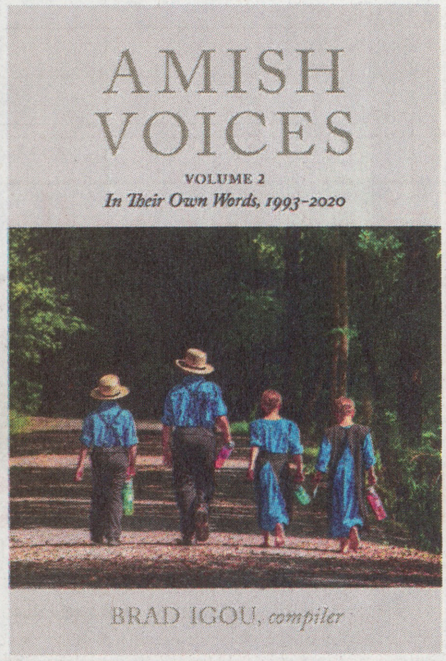

classical academy where Greek and Latin were taught.

These academic enterprises were followed during the 19th century by a flood of schools. In 1823, by an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, an Academy was established in which "the languages, arts, and sciences will be taught."

The year 1839 marked the founding of the Strasburg Academy at 37 East Main (the present day Limestone Inn Bed & Breakfast was the headmaster's home and housed boarding students). The Academy gained the reputation of being one of the best academies in the country for both boarding and day students, and its students came from all over the East Coast and as far away as Cuba and Puerto Rico.

In 1841, a classical school for girls, the "Strasburg Female Seminary," opened at 17 East Main. Such a school for girls was quite unusual at that time.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, an internal improvements bill passed in 1826 to construct a series of canals. The Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road was also incorporated with financing provided by the state.

With these undertakings, Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and from this concern emerged the Strasburg Rail Road. In 1832 a charter was secured from the Pennsylvania Legislature to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Due to financial difficulties, the project was delayed until finally put in running order in 1852. But this shortline between Strasburg and Paradise was not financially successful for many reasons, until it was revived to provide rides to visitors on authentic steam locomotives, thus becoming the focal point for all of the town's train attractions.

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AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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Bird-in-Hand

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand.

The story of the town of Bird-in-Hand is as colorful as the name itself. To be correct, the town is really a village since it has no governing body. When Bird-in-Hand celebrated its 250th Anniversary (1734 – 1984), a commemorative booklet was put together. It outlined a brief history of the town...

William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods (Pennsylvania), and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700s, moving westward from the port city of Philadelphia. English Quakers and Swiss Mennonites were the early settlers. The Quakers built a meetinghouse and two-story academy, which stands today, next to the fire company. But over the years, the Germans "made the greatest lasting impact."

A friendly relationship existed between the early settlers and the Shawnee and Conestoga Indians, who were the area's first inhabitants. They taught settlers how to deaden trees, use deerskin, prepare corn as food, and use medicinal herbs.

"When the Old Philadelphia Pike became a well-established route of transportation for those traveling west to the Alleghenies, Lancaster became known as the gateway to the west."

***Bird–in–Hand** cont'd on page 40*

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Bird–in–Hand cont'd from page 38
The trip by stagecoach for passengers, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building.

The reason for these signs was twofold. First, they could be understood by all nationalities. Secondly, many teamsters or waggoneers were poorly educated and could not read. If they were given orders to stop at a certain inn, they could do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The old legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand concerns the time when this pike was being laid out. Legend says that two road surveyors were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or go to the town of Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and so they remained.

Live Music Nights at Plain & Fancy Farm

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For more information visit discoverlancaster.com/events/live-music-nights-at-plain-fancy-farm-ft-fever-pitch/ or call 717-768-4400. Tell them, "Amish Country News sent you"!

The sign in front of the inn is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched," and soon was known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn.

The original hotel was destroyed by fire about 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was known as Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County noted that it "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity."

The town post office was established in 1836 as the Enterprise Post Office. "Enterprise" was then the official name of the town, until the final change back to Bird-in-Hand in 1873.

After a large fire in 1896, people discussed the need for a fire company. In the early days, hitting a circular saw alerted the men of a fire. The year 1916 saw the change from horse-drawn to motorized fire equipment. Today the Hand-in-Hand Fire Company remains a volunteer organization, famous for its delicious fund-raiser dinners.

Bird–in–Hand cont'd on page 42

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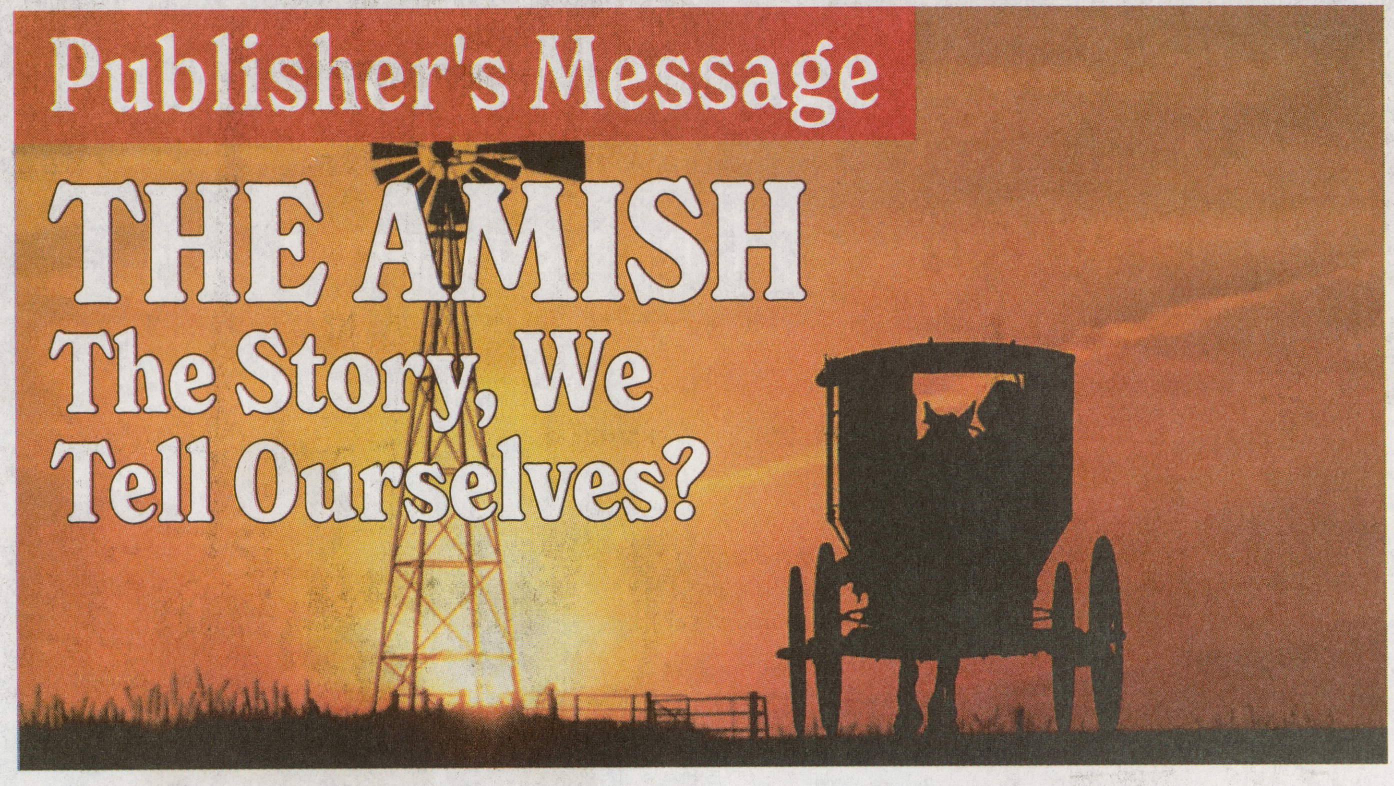
Publisher's Message

THE AMISH The Story, We Tell Ourselves?



By Edward Blanchette

There will always be someone that may question or doubt the Amish and Mennonite humble way of life. Here at Amish Country News, we have always prided ourselves on putting together the history, information, and stories that bring to life our publication, as a whole, along with those values we hold dear. That said, we will always attempt to bring to our readership a thoughtful, truthful, and hopefully intelligent respectful information regarding the Amish and Mennonite communities.

As you may or may not know, we distribute Amish Country News to 400 (+/-) distribution locations throughout Central Pennsylvania, along with potentially hundreds of our subscribers. In August, a couple of AAA offices, both in New York & West Virgina will be receiving their first bundle of ACN for their Travel Centers.

I visit just about each and every distribution location during my travels throughout "Amish Country" during the release of each issue. Recently, I was informed by a distribution location of a family visiting our area from California. This particular family didn't quite believe all they had heard, regarding our Amish and Mennonite communities. The word fake was mentioned in conversation. Fortunately, our wonderful folks that distribute ACN tend to know a thing or two about these communities that are in their area and had referred an ACN publication to their skeptical visitor/ patron to take with them on their outing to investigate for themselves first hand.

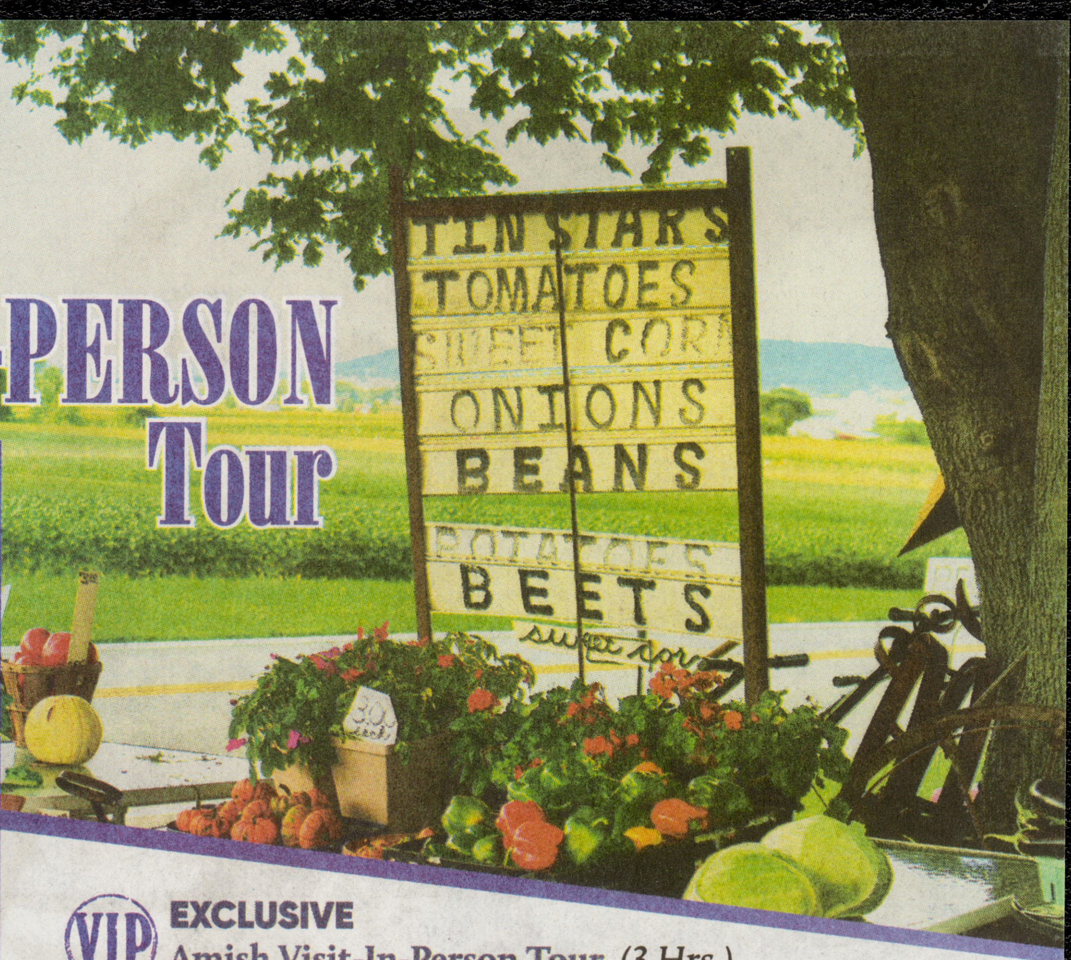
Upon arriving back at their hotel, the family was excited to share with the individual that worked there their findings from their outing. Homesteads that weren't connected to the electrical grid. The farmers plowing their fields pretty much the same way they have for hundreds of years, by a teams of horses. Women and/ or children out mowing lawns and caring for their property in "plain" clothes, and in their bare feet. The many horse & buggies that were out and about during their travels, along with the many different roadside stops that offer the different vegetables, flowers, and home-made craft and artisan items available for sale. They were so excited to validate all of those stories, among others, that they have heard over the years, as being truthful after all.

So, the next time you hear a story you're not quite sure about, remember that gathering information from multiple areas that are credible, concise, and of course of first-hand validation, will always serve truth to the story you may be telling yourself. Be well, be safe, and stay positive!

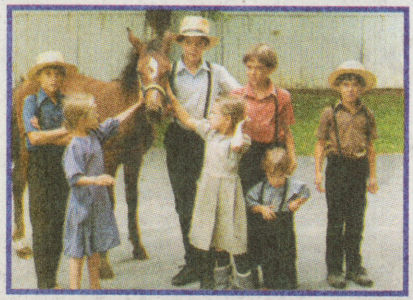
Bird–in–Hand *cont'd from page 40*

The town of Bird-in-Hand remained relatively unknown until a musical called *PLAIN & FANCY* opened in New York. The show *Playbill* noted that "The action takes place in and around Bird-in-Hand, a town in the Amish country of Pennsylvania." The cast was brought to Bird-in-Hand on January 17, 1955, prior to the official opening.

Today, the town of Bird-in-Hand is still small, said to have a population of only about 300 people. On any given day, there may be more visitors than inhabitants. Many are city folks who have come to enjoy the country atmosphere, history, and shopping. It is said that visitors "can still expect friendly shopkeepers, homegrown Lancaster County foods, and restful lodging for weary travelers."



Amish VISIT-IN-PERSON Tour



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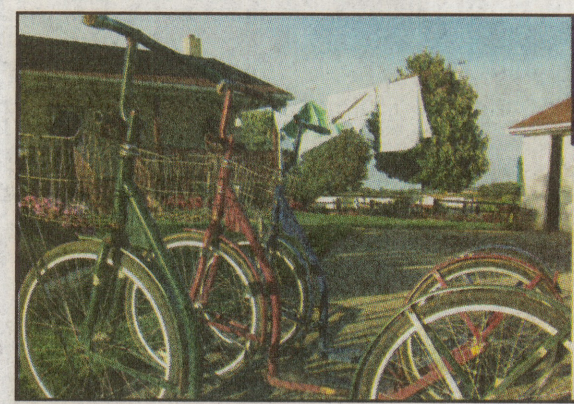
Stop 3: The Amish Home We'll go to the home of one of our Amish neighbors for friendly conversation…a chance to sit, chat, and visit the Amish way.



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